

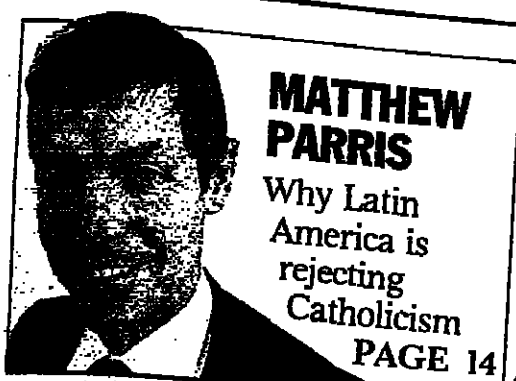
THE TIMES



30p

No. 65,548

MONDAY APRIL 8 1996



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Argentine Grand Prix: Hill wins four in a row
Rangers beat Celtic in the semi-final of the Scottish cup
SECTION 2

Hereditary peers 'will lose vote'

Blair to inflict instant curb on the Lords

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is planning to abolish hereditary peers' voting rights as soon as it comes to power in the first step towards an elected House of Lords.

Tony Blair has made clear his disdain of the 770 hereditary peers — whom he described as "Tory voting fodder" — and party strategists are considering bringing in a short Bill to strip them of their powers within the first six months of a Labour government.

More radical reform of the Lords might have to wait until a second or third Labour Parliament, so the curbs are partly intended to reassure activists and prevent party splits in the early stages of a Blair administration.

There are hundreds of Tory hereditary peers, compared with 12 Labour and 24 Liberal Democrats, giving the Conservatives a massive built-in majority in the Lords. Mr Blair, who recently declared that some were there "merely because they were the descendants of royal mistresses, intends to reverse that, although he has made plain that those who provide good service to Parliament could become life peers and continue voting. The law lords would also remain.

Well-known figures who would be disenfranchised by such a law include the Lords leader, Viscount Cranborne, Lord Strathclyde, the Tory chief whip, along with the Labour peers Lord Ponsonby and Lord Melchett. The Labour leadership has yet to decide whether they should be given the right — at present

Tories accused of smear tactics

A Tory attempt to discredit Tony Blair on the eve of his visit to Washington appeared to have foundered as American commentators professed themselves unimpressed by a document prepared by Conservative Central Office highlighting his "un-American activities". Labour called the document "an outrageous smear".

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denied them — to vote in parliamentary elections. Mr Blair's determination to pre-empt any party disunity was shown two weeks ago when he announced that he intended to ballot all 365,000 party members on Labour's manifesto. That move was designed to bind in the whole party into his programme to modernise Labour policy.

The hereditary peers plan is similarly intended to deflect leftwingers who might demand more radical measures at a time when the party is concentrating on complicated legislation for a Scottish parliament.

The idea has widespread support among Labour MPs, particularly the Left, and it is likely to be endorsed by many of the smaller parties. Labour strategists believe that even some Tories might back the move, and they are confident

of getting the measures through both the Commons and the Lords.

Sources also point out that once hereditary peers lost the vote, they would not be able to block a Scottish Parliament, which could have a difficult passage through the Lords.

But some MPs argue in favour of delay, saying that peers could be threatened with more draconian measures if they failed to back other legislation on constitutional matters.

The shadow home office team is now preparing timetables for all the constitutional legislation that Mr Blair intends to introduce, including a Scottish parliament, Welsh assembly and regional chambers. Shadow ministers are said to be drawing up three separate timetables, allowing for a hung Parliament, a slim majority, or a large mandate.

Little work, however, is being done on plans to hold a referendum on electoral reform. Labour also hopes to placate the left by offering a pledge for legislation on the first stage for elected regional assemblies in a first Parliament. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, has already given an undertaking that each region will be able to vote in a referendum on whether it wants greater autonomy.

But leftwingers are worried that legislation will be deferred to a second Parliament and Mr Straw is being pressed to back early legislation to allow for the setting up of elected regional chambers after a referendum.



Lynne Symonds, a Norfolk teacher, being made a chief of the Mamprusi tribe of Ghana at the weekend. Mrs Symonds was honoured for her help in providing books and raising money for the tribal school. Page 9. Leading article, page 15

Spelling skills three times worse among GCSE students

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A SIGNIFICANT slide in teenagers' writing skills since 1980 has been revealed by a comparison of English O-level scripts with GCSE examination papers.

Researchers concluded that candidates who failed O level would now be receiving a grade C or better at GCSE English, said to be the equivalent of an O-level pass.

The study, by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, contains a damning indictment of the national curriculum for a sharp decline in spelling. English GCSE students in 1994 were up to three times worse at spelling than O-level pupils in 1980 and had a narrower range of vocabulary. There was a six-fold increase in the use of non-standard English, for example saying "real" instead of "really", or using "that" instead of "who" or "which".

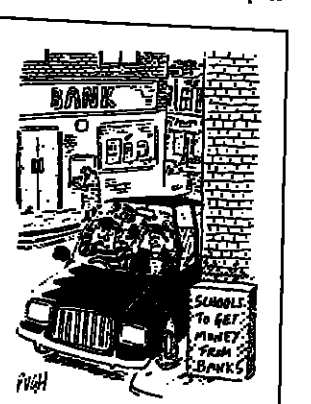
Overall, the number of error-free sentences fell from 73 per cent in the 1980 English O level to 47 per cent in the 1994 GCSE English examination. The study concluded: "In some respects candidates awarded D and E grades in 1980 seemed not unlike many of those reaching C and above in more recent years."

Examination scripts were analysed from 30 boys and 30 girls awarded each grade from A to E at O level English in 1980 and from A to G at GCSE English in 1993 and 1994. O-level candidates used more adventurous vocabulary and sentence structures than pupils receiving the same grades 14 years later. While the punctuation of more able students was comparable over time, weaker O-level students were much better than weaker GCSE pupils.

Spelling differences were noticeable. For example, al-

right (instead of all right) was used at D grade in O level but at A grade in GCSE.

There was also a marked deterioration in spelling between 1993 and 1994. An average of 50 spelling errors per script in 1980 was followed by 93 per script in 1993 and 149 the next year. This was put down to the scrapping after 1993 of an option for the whole GCSE to be assessed on coursework. The vast majority of schools opted for the full coursework alternative in 1993 and examined schools that year included a high proportion of selective and indepen-



dent schools. In 1994, all schools were again forced to put pupils through the traditional test.

O-level candidates were also more likely to make proper use of full stops and commas. Semi-colons were used appropriately eight times in the samples from 1980 and incorrectly once. However, just three candidates in both 1993 and in 1994 used the semi-colon correctly, with one incorrect attempt in 1994. The colon was used three times in 1980, once mistakenly, but was not even tried by anybody in 1993.

Blankett returns, page 4

Ulster is still at war, says former IRA terrorist

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY KELLY, the convicted IRA bomber and leading Republican strategist, declared yesterday in a rare public speech that Northern Ireland was in "a war situation".

And, as thousands of Republicans gathered for Easter Rising Commemoration parades on both sides of the border, John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, was accused of caving into London and failing to provide the right leadership. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, told a Londonderry rally: "Mr Bruton has not so far risen to the challenge presented by British duplicity and bad faith."

Mr Kelly, 41, who is widely respected throughout the IRA for his role as a leading terrorist in the 1970s and 1980s, was cheered by hundreds of supporters when he told a Sinn Féin and IRA rally in Drumbo, County Donegal that Republicans were still committed to removing Britain from Ireland.

"If the British Government had not squandered the year and a half of the IRA cessation for selfish party political reasons, we might have been well on the way to the resolution of the age-old conflict between Britain and Ireland," he said. Mr Kelly, who was convicted for his part in the first

London bomb attacks by the Provisional IRA in 1973, said that the movement's goals had not changed. "We want British withdrawal. Partition must end. It has not worked."

In a sign that the IRA is unlikely to restore its ceasefire in the short-term, Mr Kelly insisted that Britain must give "clear and unambiguous public assurances" that it would convene unconditional all-party talks.

IA Labour government would abolish powers to ban terrorist suspects from the British mainland under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary said.

Korea alert as troops move in

American troops in South Korea were put on high alert at the weekend, as a third incursion of North Korean soldiers into the demilitarised zone yesterday raised tensions in the divided peninsula. About 300 heavily armed soldiers entered the joint security area at the Panmunjom border crossing in 12 lorries. They began to leave more than two hours later. Page 7

PO takes off

The Post Office could become Britain's biggest travel agent if a trial in London is successful. Thousands of branches could sell cut-price air tickets and have computer systems to enable customers to fix up their travel documents. Page 36

Leading article, page 15

Mexicans die in US border crash

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

CRAMMED into a smuggler's stolen van, seven suspected illegal immigrants with hopes of a new life in America were killed when their vehicle overturned in a ditch while fleeing the US Border Patrol.

The crash, less than a week after a videotape of police beating two immigrants was shown around the world, has brought Mexican anger over America's treatment of its citizens to a crescendo even though officials insist the vehicle was not being chased.

Besides the dead, the incident on a remote mountain road, 60 miles north of California's Mexican border, left 18 injured including three men with severe spinal injuries,

one believed to be paralysed from the neck down.

As news of Saturday's tragedy reached Los Angeles, a mood of sorrow at a rally for the victims of last week's televised beating turned to one of outrage. A 6,000-strong crowd chanted slogans, waved placards and brought parts of the city to a standstill.

"Christ's parents were immigrants," read one banner. Latino politicians attacked Pete Wilson, the state Governor re-elected in 1994 on an anti-immigration platform.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry issued an official complaint, its second in six days, and demanded an investigation by American authorities.

RAF gives the Brylcreem boys a bit more polish

By ADRIAN LEE

THE RAF is in danger of becoming the riff-raff, senior service officers fear. Once upon a time, young RAF officers were so socially adroit and dashing that they were known as the Brylcreem boys. Now they speak in monosyllables and are more at home in the disco than the ballroom.

To rectify matters, the latest 100 recruits at Cranwell are to be schooled in the finer points of life by order of Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff.

Sir Michael called for oral communication classes at the service's officer training college when he heard that

trainees responded with grunts of "yeah" and "OK" to polite inquiries from visiting superiors about their course. Worse was to follow when it emerged that the recruits, who are regarded as among the cream of the armed forces, did not know a fox trot from a waltz.

An RAF source said yesterday: "This all stemmed from a visit to the mess by two very senior officers. When they asked the cadets how things were going, they got monosyllabic answers. It was all very embarrassing."

"On another occasion the cadets were at a civic function, where the mayor and mayoress were present.

When it came to formal dancing the officers just sat and looked at one another. The only dancing they know is in a disco. It is not a reflection on the qualities of the lads and lasses — these are very intelligent people — it is more a reflection on the times we live in. But it got back to Sir Michael, who wanted to know what the hell was going on and ordered the commandant at Cranwell to do something about it.

"An RAF officer must be able to carry him or herself at all times and not be embarrassed socially."

The ballroom dancing sessions are not compulsory, but cadets on the eight-week courses are "strongly advised" to participate. They are taught

fox trot, waltz, quickstep, Latin and even rock-and-roll moves.

Recruits, who are in their early twenties and come from both public and comprehensive schools, also attend "dining in" evenings where they are encouraged to converse with senior officers. Other lessons cover "common etiquette and social responsibility", including such topics as dress codes and terms of address; for example how to greet an archbishop.

In a separate development Sir Michael, himself a product of Cranwell, has ordered the creation of a confidential drugs hotline at the headquarters of the RAF Police, in Bath, for the use of all ranks.

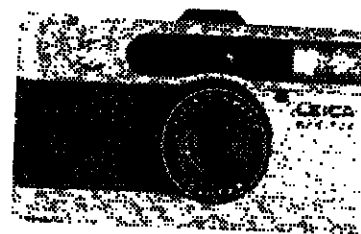
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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

CONCERT OFFER
Buy one ticket for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Albert Hall and get one free

PLUS:
Libby Purves, and Dr Thomas Stuttard's Medical Briefing

WEDNESDAY

FASHION
Buttoned up: the best dresses for summer

PLUS:
Win a mobile office in Interface

THURSDAY

FILM OF THE WEEK
Mira Sorvino in Woody Allen's *Mighty Aphrodite*

PLUS:
Health, Books and Travel News

FRIDAY

POP
Caitlin Moran on modern music and musicians

PLUS:
The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY

SUMMER OF '96
40 pages of men's fashion, in the *Magazine*

PLUS:
Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

Americans dismiss 'smear memo'

By PHILIP WEBSTER
AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A TORY attempt to discredit Tony Blair on the eve of his visit to Washington this week appeared to have foundered last night as American commentators dismissed themselves unimpressed by a document highlighting his "un-American activities".

A memorandum drawn up by the research department at Conservative Central Office and sent to Republican sympathising journalists in the United States was cited by Labour as evidence of a dirty tricks campaign against Mr Blair. But Conservative chiefs defended their action, accusing Labour of a "hysterical response" and said that all the information provided in the document was properly sourced and beyond dispute.

Tory sources said the document was compiled by the research department, under Daniel Finkelstein, its director, after American commentators approached the department for information about "this man Tony Blair". However, at least one of the recipients, a senior journalist, was given it without asking for it.

The document, which Labour believes was designed to sabotage Mr Blair's three days of talks with President Clinton, other politicians and businessmen, highlights Mr Blair's

The Labour Party's Un-American Activities

1. Blair's un-American Activities

1.1 Tony Blair in the early 1980s was opposed to nuclear weapons. During the Beaconsfield by-election of 1982 he wrote, "I support the Labour Party's present leadership" including such policies as, "nuclear disarmament, unilaterally if necessary". His election leaflets said, "Nuclear weapons are not a deterrent they are an encouragement to attack" (quoted in *The Modernist*, by Jon Sopel, p.59 2nd Edition).

Labour described the Tory dossier as outrageous

past opposition to nuclear weapons and states that in the 1980s both he and his wife Cherie were "anti-nuclear and anti-American". It claims that Mr Blair opposed the actions taken by America in 1986 in response to Libyan terrorist activities, and had backed the removal of American nuclear missiles from Greenham Common.

Quoting from a Commons motion it added that he had criticised America's "evil campaign" against Nicaragua and "President Reagan's state-sponsored terrorism" in Central America.

The document goes on to detail the Shadow Cabinet's alleged "un-American activities". It says that four of them were members of a group called the

Supper Club which had opposed Britain's entry into the war against Iraq. "Mr Blair has seen fit to promote these MPs irrespective of their views. This is largely because he sympathises with them," it asserts.

Tory sources said there was nothing secretive about the document which would in any case have been distributed to Westminster journalists this week as Mr Blair prepares to leave on his visit.

However, the heading on the paper, "Blair's un-American activities", inevitably evoked memories of the McCarthyite era. Labour officials attacked the "disgraceful smear" against Mr Blair, alleging that it would further

worsen the administration's relations with John Major. Clinton supporters remain irritated that senior Tories were sent to America to help in George Bush's failed re-election campaign four years ago.

Mr Blair will be attempting to convince Americans that Labour has buried its far left ideals and observers suggested yesterday that the document would have little impact on his visit.

John O'Sullivan, British-born editor of *National Review*, a right-wing magazine, described the allegations as "true but trivial". He was offered the 1½ pages by a Tory source but had paid scant attention to them.

"Nobody really believes Tony Blair is the man he was in the 1980s," he said.

In Mr O'Sullivan's view, the headline on the document about "un-American activities" was "sensationalistic". He said: "I would be equally cynical about the Tory attempts to spoil the Blair visit and Labour's indignation about it."

The Tory stunt had not caused any reaction in America by yesterday. There was only a news agency report from London on the political row caused by the document. No American newspapers or television news programmes had picked up on its allegations. They might, though, as the week wears on.

I'll vote Labour at General Election, says Archdeacon

Austin counters Tory attacks on Blair's beliefs

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

A SENIOR churchman threw his support behind Tony Blair yesterday after the Labour leader enraged Conservatives by linking politics and religion and saying that the Bible had taught him that he could never be a Tory.

The Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York, said he would be voting Labour at the General Election and launched a blistering attack on the Government's handling of the Scott report and BSE.

He suggested that "morality comes second" for Tory MPs. The Labour leader, who set out his religious views in a newspaper article, was accused by one Conservative MP of "wearing God on his sleeve".

Coming on the day that official research indicated that Mr Blair had succeeded in making the Labour Party more middle class than the Conservative Party, his remarks were more than senior Tory MPs could stomach. They also prompted senior Labour figures to deny that he was arguing that "Christians should only vote Labour".

Brian Mavhinney, Conser-



Austin: hit at handling of Scott report and BSE

vative party chairman, said: "In terms of my Christian faith I start with Jesus and the Great Commandment, which is to love the God of the good with all your heart, your soul, your mind and your strength, and to love others as yourself. That commandment transcends party politics and I would be very cautious about any politician who sought to claim that his or her political party was the exclusive vehicle for Christian action."

Mr Blair, writing in *The Sunday Telegraph*, said his view of Christian values led him to oppose the narrow view of self-interest that Conservatism, particularly its modern, more right-wing form, represented. He insisted he was not pretending to be any better or less selfish than anyone else, or saying that Christians could only vote Labour.

"The key point is that Christianity is more than a one-to-one relationship between the individual and God, impor-

tant as that is. The relationship also has to be with the outside world," he wrote.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, was reported to be aware of Mr Blair's remarks but declined to comment. But the archdeacon sprang to Mr Blair's defence. Mr Austin said: "I welcome Tony Blair's comments. He wasn't saying that you couldn't be a Tory and a Christian. He was arguing that Christianity had swayed him against the extreme right wing and Marxism."

"I think that the Tory MPs who are having a go at Blair today may be feeling guilty about the way they have handled the Scott Report and the BSE crisis. They have acted in a way that has made me wonder if I can trust them. With them, it seems morality comes second. I tend to vote against parties in elections and the Conservatives have swayed me against them."

Mr Blair's words were bound to upset Tories already concerned by statistics apparently confirming Labour's claim to the middle class mantle. Labour's figures showed the party could now claim more young professionals and managers among its members than the Tories; 57 per cent of Labour members are in households earning £20,000 or more, and 30 per cent £30,000 or above. About 45 per cent of Tory members earn £20,000 or more and 25 per cent £30,000 or more.

Donald Dewar, Labour's chief whip, defended Mr Blair's commitment "which we all know and admire and he goes out of his way from the beginning to say that he is not arguing that Christians should only vote Labour".

He told GMTV's *Sunday Programme*: "The Labour



Blair: Christianity was more than a relationship with God, it also had to be with the outside world

Party is not trying to take over the Christian church, it would be ludicrous to say the least, but Tony has a strong religious position and moral views that have shaped his politics. But he does go on to make some points about self-interest and community which seem to me to be perfectly legitimate."

The Rev Andrew MacLellan, Convener of the Church of Scotland, said he welcomed the fact politicians recognised politics was more than just economics, tax cuts and the pound in your pocket. On the same programme he said: "Politics is about learning to be a society and a community together. Learning about being a society together is a secular way of speaking about loving your neighbour."

Ann Widdecombe, a Home Office minister, said: "[Mr Blair] portrays Pontius Pilate as a man torn between right

and expediency. The Labour Party has consistently chosen expediency and I don't think Tony Blair is the best person to lecture us on religious morals."

David Wilshire, Tory MP for Spelthorne, who is Convener of the Methodist Fellowship at the Commons, said no politician "should try to argue Christianity as justification for their ideology". He was offended by Mr Blair's remarks, which were "deeply hurtful" to many Christians.

Dame Jill Knight, a member of the Tory 1922 committee executive, said: "It has always seemed to me that when politicians feel they must claim Christian principles as a reason why people should vote for them, which is precisely what Mr Blair is doing, they have abandoned moral thought themselves."

Leading article, page 15

Easter message of hope is not just for the church-goers says Carey

By MICHAEL HORNSNELL

THE message of eternal hope inspired by the Resurrection was for all people and not just the committed church-goer, the Archbishop of Canterbury said yesterday in his Easter address.

It was the bedrock on which Christianity rested, Dr George Carey said at Canterbury Cathedral. Referring to a survey which showed that half the people of Britain believed in the Resurrection while only 34 per cent did not, he went on: "Those who thought our society was over-run by secularism and scepticism will be in for a surprise."

"It shows the deep deposits of belief beneath the surface. And there can be no doubt of the goodness and generosity of so many people, whether church-goers or not. We must avoid the trap of becoming fixated on evil."

There was a drift from explicit Christian values and hope, but Easter said that if we tried to live without God we would be powerless and constantly defeated by the chains of our sins, by the fickleness of our nature and

A congregation shaken by a sex scandal last year relaunched their services yesterday at a chapel in Sheffield's east end. Worshippers were drawn from remnants of the Nine O'Clock Service, broken up after women complained of being sexually assaulted by the leader, Chris Brain.

Yesterday's "quiet meditative service" was conducted by the Archdeacon of Sheffield, the Ven Stephen Lowe. A Diocesan spokesman said the rock-style service could be re-introduced. "The scandal was about Chris Brain and not about reaching out to a generation lost to the church."

the weakness of our will. Christianity at its best is never comfortable, but if we open our hearts to the Resurrection message, we too shall find ourselves surprised by joy," he said, referring to C.S. Lewis's book *Surprised by Joy*, in which the writer told how he suddenly became convinced of the reality of God.

The Archbishop told Sir David Frost in the ITV programme *The Easter Enigma* that there was a bodily resurrection: "It wasn't a ghost, it wasn't an apparition, it wasn't merely appearances but there was a bodily resurrection. I believe it was bodily, but something happened to that body which made it quite extraordinary, which is al-

most a pattern of the resurrection body that we will all one day enjoy."

Asked if this was saying that in the eternal sense there could be a happy ending, he said: "Oh yes, definitely, definitely. When we look at this world in which we live, the Easter faith is a wonderful radiant message of hope."

The Archbishop said that those who had suffered in the Dunblane atrocity last month would be fortified by the certainty that they would see their loved ones again.

His message of hope was extended to those who suffered as a result of atrocities such as those at Dunblane and Srebrenica. Dr Carey said: "God has created a world in which He has given

us free will to misuse, free will to use creatively. That is a reality of the world."

"But it doesn't mean to say that He has abandoned the world. He's there. He's not an absentee landlord. He's with us, and He expects us to take responsibility for our actions. When we think about those atrocities and the human tragedies that happen to each one of us, we know that we are going to see our loved ones again."

□ In his first Easter Day sermon in York Minster, Dr David Hope, the Archbishop of York, said the bravery and courage shown by the people of Dunblane offered hope for the world. Despite the suffering felt by the whole community of the Scottish town, the courage of the headmaster and his staff and the emergency services gave cause for hope.

Dr Hope singled out the bravery of one boy for particular praise. "The little boy, still wounded and bandaged on the occasion of the Queen's visit to the hospital, who broke ranks and cut through the formalities and the protocol."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Judge attacks Howard reforms

A former Master of the Rolls yesterday accused Michael Howard of turning his White Paper on tougher sentencing into an election manifesto and mixing party politics with penal reform.

Lord Donaldson of Lynton said: "The White Paper read in part more as an election manifesto than it did as a serious study of penal policy."

He also attacked the way penal policy had swung from one extreme to the other in recent years and suggested that attempts had been made to undermine public respect for the judiciary.

Opera TB tests

More than 200 members of the opera house staff at Glyndebourne have been tested for tuberculosis after five cases of the disease among staff within three years. No further cases were found in the tests, ordered by East Sussex Health Authority, but contacts are still being traced. The Glyndebourne season will open as scheduled on May 17.

Driving charge

The Princess of Wales's mother has been charged with refusing to provide a breath sample after being stopped by police. Frances Shand Kydd, 60, could also face a drink-driving charge after the incident in Ohan, Strathclyde, on Friday. She lives near Ny on the island of Seil. She moved to the area after leaving her first husband, the late Earl Spencer.

Oriana sets sail

The *Oriana*, P&O's £200 million flagship liner, is due to return to the water today after spending two days in dry dock in Southampton being fitted with new propeller blades to stop her shaking at high speed. The cruise liner returned from her inaugural world cruise last week and is due to depart tonight for the Caribbean.

First point

Poole Town has narrowly escaped going into the record books as the worst soccer team in Britain after drawing 0-0 with Bashley at the weekend. The Beazer Homes Southern side halted a run of 39 consecutive defeats, equaling a record set 18 years ago by Stockport County, and gained its first point of the season.

Royal baby due



The Queen's niece, Lady Sarah Chatto, above, the former Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, is expecting a baby in July. The daughter of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, and her husband, Daniel Chatto, announced their news to members of the Royal Family at Windsor.

Star trek

The British explorer David Hempleman-Adams is to attempt the first televised walk to the magnetic North Pole. His 17-strong team will set out from Resolute Bay in northwest Canada next week, dragging 300kg (660lb) of TV and satellite transmission equipment on a specially-insulated sled.

Rickshaws roll

Britain's first rickshaw service started yesterday in Oxford with university students pedalling passengers on half-hour tours of the city. Twenty-five two-seater 21-year rickshaws have been imported from India to use for the £8 trips around the main historic sites. A similar service is planned for Cambridge later this year.

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Yugoslav refugee who fought Hitler and Tito is pulled from his car, beaten, kicked and robbed

British Serbs pray for war veteran killed by mugger

By Paul Wilkinson

PRAYERS were said in Serbian Orthodox churches across Britain yesterday for the Second World War veteran Stevan Popovic, who survived battles against Hitler and Tito only to die at the hands of a mugger in the country where he believed he had found sanctuary.

Mr Popovic, 74, was a leading figure in the British Serb community. He had led a group of Chetnik guerrillas against the Nazis and against Tito's Communists in a bitter civil war. When Tito triumphed Mr Popovic fled to England, homeless and with only £1 to his name.

On Saturday the man who spent his later years helping refugees from the latest war in the former Yugoslavia died shortly after being beaten and robbed by a youth whom he had asked for directions in Chapeltown, Leeds.

Yesterday his widow, Dragica, 65, said: "I still cannot believe it has happened. I keep asking myself why. Stevan loved the people here, he trusted people. We were so happy here and we had so many English friends."

Mr Popovic, known as Pop, was a retired bus driver who lived in Oldham, Greater Manchester. He was in Leeds to collect a friend for a reunion of the Serbian Chetnik Association in Leicester, of which he was vice-president. Shortly after 8am he stopped to ask an Afro-Caribbean man in his late teens or early 20s the way to the hotel where his friend was waiting.

The youth abused him, pulled him from his Lada saloon, battered him to the ground and kicked him, breaking several of his ribs. He tore off Mr Popovic's jacket to steal his wallet, which contained £50, and pulled his watch and wedding ring from his hand. Despite his injuries, Mr Popovic tried to grab the steering wheel as the attacker drove off in the Lada. He clung on for a short distance but was thrown clear.

Mr Popovic had emergency surgery at St James's University Hospital in Leeds, but the stress of the incident induced a fatal heart attack. Detective Superintendent Andrew Brown, of West Yorkshire, said the incident was being treated as murder.

Mr Popovic had many relatives in the former Yugoslavia. His sister was killed last year in their home town of Knin, which is now part of Croatia. Mrs Popovic said: "It makes it difficult that, with all the trouble there, he should die like this. Had it been from natural causes, I might have accepted it, but to die just for asking someone the way..."

"Society has changed so much. Everything has changed since we came here. I remember you could leave a purse full of money and some body would return it. Things must be changed, we cannot live in terror like this."



Dragica Popovic with her son, Milan, yesterday and with her husband soon after coming to Britain

"He was a harmless old man who was looking forward to his day out with his friends. He was so looking forward to spending a traditional Serbian Orthodox family Easter at our home next week."

Mr Popovic was a graduate of the university in Split. He met his wife in a refugee camp in Germany in 1948 and came to England. They married in 1953 and had two sons, Milan, 41, an optical designer in Leicester, and Aleks, 40, a general manager with British Airways at Heathrow. They have two grandchildren, Joseph, 10, and Catherine, 8.

Mr Popovic was comforting his mother at her home yesterday. He said: "My feelings are just of great shock. This is the last thing I would expect to happen to someone like my father. He was so diplomatic and not the sort to go looking for trouble. He knew the area quite well but was looking for the hotel to meet his friend and may have been distracted. It is shocking that anyone should attack a man of over 70 in this way."

"My father was a Chetnik hero. He fought against Hitler when the Nazis invaded in 1941. He was an officer in the Royal Yugoslav Army and disappeared into the hills to fight a guerrilla war against the Ustase Nationalist Party when the Germans took over and disbanded the army. He travelled all over the country and suffered many hardships and much pain."

"For a man like him to live through what he lived through and to be cut down like this is disgusting. He had no enemies, not even among the Communists whom he saw whenever he returned to Yugoslavia. He was a tireless peace campaigner and worked hard to bring understanding of the Serbian cause in Yugoslavia."

Iljica Procanin, secretary of the Chetnik Association, said: "He was a very civilised man, even in battle, and a man of principle. He always ensured whenever possible the protection of civilians. He was very much respected and I knew him as a very intelligent, caring and meek fellow."

The congregation at the Serbian Orthodox church in Bradford, where Mr Popovic worshipped, were among those who prayed for him yesterday. The priest, Father Zarko Nedich, had been helped by Mr Popovic when he arrived in Britain 11 years ago. He said: "He had a British passport when he died, but he was a Serbian in his heart. He was a proud man who had fought the Communists and then fled across Italy and Germany to come to Britain. When he arrived, he had just a pound in his pocket, but he built up a good life and a good family. You could not wish to meet a nicer man."



When I arrived here with my wife and baby son, he gave me very useful advice about life here. He was a very close friend and a good parishioner. I can say only good things about him, he was so kind, big and open-hearted."

Detective Superintendent Brown said: "We need to catch the killer quickly. Although Mr Popovic had a history of illness, he would still be alive now if it was not for the attack upon him. He was probably too old for what he tried to do, but he has got to be admired for his brave actions. He was an unfortunate hero. Sadly, he was in the wrong place at the wrong time."

The attacker is described as tall and stocky. His head was shaved at the sides and back in what is known as a "pineapple" cut. He was wearing a dark leather jacket and a green shirt. He could have been accompanied by another youth wearing a blue Yankees baseball cap.

West Yorkshire Police say the situation in Chapeltown is not as bad as in parts of other British cities, but last year criminals felt bold enough to continue a gunfight over territory at the entrance of the emergency unit at the neighbouring St James's University Hospital, where one young man was shot.

Derek Fatchett, Labour MP for Leeds Central, said: "It is a dangerous precedent to set a pattern from one isolated incident. My view is that you cannot see the whole of Chapeltown in these terms."

The Prince of Wales recently visited the Chapeltown and Harehills Assisted Learning Computer School, set up by parents concerned by the poor academic standards of many Afro-Caribbean children. The privately funded project has been responsible for a significant improvement in their attainments.

Police fear twins were murdered

By Stewart Tindler

IDENTICAL twins whose bodies were pulled from a north London canal within yards of each other were yesterday at the centre of a murder investigation. One brother had been beaten to death and wrapped in a blanket. The other died from unknown causes.

As divers searched the Regent's Canal yesterday for clues to the deaths of Christopher and Anthony Langford, 38, police were waiting to confirm whether they were dealing with a family row or a double murder.

The investigation began on March 26 when the body of Christopher Langford was found in the canal. Last Wednesday the body of Anthony was dragged from the same canal. It had been in the water for some days.

The two brothers came originally from Bedford and lived in hostels in the Islington area. Both had minor convictions for public order and drinking offences.

Royal Family to rescue as horses stampede

By Stephen Farrell

THE Royal Family joined a five-hour alert with police and the Household Cavalry when 75 ponies stampeded from a late-night fire at the Guards Polo Club stables in Windsor Great Park.

The Duke and Duchess of York left their former matrimonial home at nearby Sunninghill Park to give first aid to a woman who suffered cuts when one of 30 terrified animals that ran through the town centre was fatally injured colliding with a car. They then helped to capture horses in Windsor Great Park.

The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince of Wales left Windsor Castle — itself hit by fire in 1992 — to help to calm the horses late on Saturday night. A spokesman said they had gone to satisfy themselves the situation was under control.

One officer in Windsor, Sergeant Andrew Morrow, said: "I was on King's Road and it was like the Grand National. There were more than 30 horses charging up the road in complete darkness."

The blaze had started on Saturday night in a hay barn at the polo club, where the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince of Wales are members. The head groom and his staff decided to release the ponies — some worth up to £20,000 — fearing they would be trapped by the smoke and flames.

The animals fled in darkness, to be hunted eventually by 100 police RSPCA inspectors, local Horse Watch members, AA patrols and one officer and five men from the Household Cavalry Regiment at Combermere Barracks.

Two police helicopters with thermal-imaging cameras were called out. Several police cars were damaged by fleeing horses and roads had to be sealed off to prevent accidents.

Many of the horses were found grazing safely in fields and gardens miles from the scene. Three people received hospital treatment for minor injuries. Among them was Jo Hughes, 18, who had been helped by the Yorks while she awaited an ambulance. She was a passenger in a Ford Orion when two horses collided with the side of the car and a third tried to climb over the roof. She said: "It was horrific. They just ran straight at us. You could smell the horses in the car."

Mother who delayed cure in clear

By a Staff Reporter

A WOMAN who risked death by turning down chemotherapy to let her unborn child live has been told she is clear of cancer.

Sonya Short, 29, a nurse from Blaydon, Tyne and Wear, decided against the treatment to cure a breast tumour 12 weeks into her pregnancy because she knew it would kill her baby. She had her right breast removed and delayed taking powerful anti-cancer drugs until after giving birth to Charlie, six months after the disease was detected.

The baby was born three weeks ago, weighing 7lb 13oz, and Mrs Short finally started a course of tamoxifen to combat the malignant cells. Mrs Short and her husband Kevin, 30, have now been told that their life-or-death gamble has succeeded.

The lump had been found during an ante-natal check-up. The couple, who also have a two-year-old daughter, Molly, had no doubts about protecting Charlie while he was in the womb.

Mrs Short underwent a mastectomy last September, and had to wait until Charlie was born before she could continue her treatment. Mrs Short, who nurses terminally ill patients at a hospice, had been told her pregnancy would make it easier for the cancer cells to enter her bloodstream.

After Mrs Short had a bone and liver scan, a cancer-specialist nurse from the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne telephoned last week to tell her she was free of the disease.

Cuddling Charlie, Mrs Short said: "I'm ecstatic — I've been given the all-clear and I've got a lovely baby boy. I've been given my life back. I'm only just beginning to realise what it really means."

"Up until now we've lived week by week and not dared think too much about the future. One of my worries was that I might not be around to see Molly and Charlie start school. Now there's no reason why I shouldn't."

"I have no regrets. I don't think I could have lived with myself if I'd had an abortion so I could have the treatment."



Sonya Short, who has beaten cancer, with Charlie

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Blunkett returns to woo teachers with school repairs plan

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

DAVID BLUNKETT made a triumphant return to the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers yesterday. A year after he was barracked by militants, he promised a new deal between Labour and the banks to repair "crumbling" schools.

At last year's conference, in Blackpool, the Shadow Education Secretary had to take refuge after being pursued by angry hard-left teachers. Yesterday his speech won loud applause from delegates.

Mr Blunkett's reception contrasted with the tension when Gillian Shephard addressed the conference in Cardiff on Saturday. The speech of the Education and Employment Secretary was punctuated by muted heckling and laughter as she defended the Government's record.

In one of his most assured performances as education spokesman, Mr Blunkett reaf-

firm his party's intention to scrap nursery vouchers and halt any plans to increase selective schooling. But he used the speech to outline an innovative scheme to tackle the backlog of school repairs.

Groups of schools would negotiate repair and maintenance programmes with a consortium of banks and other private firms which would

raise the capital and take responsibility for the work. Money currently devoted to maintenance would be handed over to the consortium, which would make a profit from the resulting efficiency savings in contracts of up to 20 years.

Mr Blunkett claimed that this would enable hundreds of millions of pounds to go into school premises each year without increasing public-sector borrowing. "By pooling resources and working in partnership, we can ensure that sound advice is available, bureaucracy is minimised and private lenders are sufficiently confident to take part."

The scheme differs from the Government's Private Finance Initiative because groups of schools or whole education authorities would be involved, rather than single institutions. Mr Blunkett said the banks considered lending to individual schools a "non-starter".

The deterioration of many school buildings has been one of the main issues at this

year's teaching union conferences. The NUT is threatening walkouts in many schools next term if a national audit of premises finds buildings to be unsafe. An emergency motion at the conference condemned the Government's measures to deregulate school premises.

Labour has developed the scheme in discussions with Hambros Bank and is enter-

ing talks with the British Bankers' Association.

The £3.2 billion backlog of repairs identified by a recent survey could be cleared in a "reasonable period of time", Mr Blunkett said. Labour could not promise instant improvements but would commit itself to a decade of investment in education.

Doug McAvoy, the general

secretary of the NUT, welcomed the plan but said Labour had to be prepared to carry out the repair programme even if the scheme did not work. If necessary, this should extend to raising taxes.

Graham Lane, who chairs the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, said local authorities would be thrilled by the

scheme. "It is a rare example of imaginative thinking to solve a serious problem and I am convinced it would work."

More than 600 schools still have outside lavatories and 750,000 children are taught in temporary classrooms, according to the latest survey of school premises. A report by the two main local government associations found that

schools were suffering an "appalling level of neglect".

The need to enhance capital spending has long been recognised, but restraints on public expenditure have frustrated education ministers' plans. The local authorities' report said the amount they had been allowed to spend on capital projects had been cut by 22 per cent in four years.



David Blunkett addressing the conference yesterday. His warm reception was in contrast to the heckling endured by Gillian Shephard

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THE ROSETTA MISSION



Rosetta flies a million miles to seek comet's heart of stone

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

SMALL craft are to attempt to land on an orbiting comet as part of a unique space mission. Experiments will be carried out on samples taken from Wirtanen's comet by a tiny landing craft's robot arm and the results relayed to Earth.

At the end of the mission, with Wirtanen's comet approaching the sun, the mother ship will move to 50,000 km behind the comet's tail. From there it will fly slowly into the dust and solar wind exuding from the comet, taking measurements and eventually crashing into Wirtanen's nucleus, ten years after launch.

Details of the mission, which will rendezvous with Wirtanen's comet early next century, are expected to take centre stage at a meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society in Liverpool this week.

Researchers believe that if the project is successful it will shed new light on the origins of the Universe and the planets. The Giotto space probe had a rendezvous with Halley's comet a few years ago but no space craft has landed on a comet.

Until recently there were doubts over whether the experiment would get off the ground after Britain pressed for funding cuts at the European Space Agency. But Peter Bond, space science adviser to the society, said yesterday that the Government's Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council had found money for the venture.

"I think this will be an amazing mission," Mr Bond said. "It will be the first time we've ever followed a comet for millions of miles, watching how it develops as it gets closer to the sun, and the first time anything has landed on a comet."

"The probes will hopefully soft-land on the nucleus and measure the surface, how hard it is, what it's made of and what gases come out of it."

The spacecraft, Rosetta, is named after the Egyptian town where, in 1799, the Rosetta stone was discovered. It is scheduled to blast off from French Guiana in January 2003. The main landing probe will be a



Champion: first to decipher Rosetta stone

45kg craft named Champollion, after Jean-François Champollion, the Frenchman who made the first complete decipherment of the Rosetta stone.

British universities and institutes, including Sheffield University, the Open University, Imperial College and the Mullard Space Science Laboratory, will have instruments on board.

Rosetta will travel through space for eight years before intercepting the comet 700 million kilometres from earth, near Jupiter's orbit. Mission planners will use the voyage to pass two asteroids, 3840 Mumukshobell and 2530 Shipka, 300 and then 2,100 days after launch.

On approaching Wirtanen's comet, Rosetta will fire thrusters to slow its approach so that it orbits around the comet's head, or nucleus. Here it will track the comet for about three years, sending data back to Earth.

It was hoped that the Rosetta mission would bring a piece of the comet back to Earth but budget constraints have altered the plans. Instead, two small probes will be dropped from the mother craft onto Wirtanen's surface.

The Champollion probe has been built by Nasa and CNES, the French space agency. The other, RoLand (or Rosetta Lander), was built by German companies with help from European institutes, including the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

While Champollion is designed to last a matter of days, RoLand should function for several months.

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Lawyers join scheme to represent hard-up clients

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SOME of Britain's leading lawyers are joining a scheme to represent hard-up but worthy clients for nothing. The first case chosen for this treatment is that of a woman who has been ordered to return a 10-year-old Zulu boy living with her family to his natural parents in South African township.

The lawyers for the woman will be Allan Levy, QC, and Maggie Rae, a solicitor with Mishcon De Reya, solicitors to the Princess of Wales. The case forms part of a six-month pilot scheme, called *pro bono*

(for the public good), to be launched formally by the Bar Council next month.

The Court of Appeal ordered last month that the Zulu boy, who cannot be identified, must return to South Africa four years after the white woman, who now lives in Maida Vale, west London, brought him to England for adoption. Lord Justice Neill rejected the idea of adoption and noted that the boy, known only as P, had lost his ability to speak Zulu and that his links with his homeland were growing more tenuous.

Mr Levy succeeded last week in obtaining a stay of the order until

the end of this month and hopes to persuade the House of Lords to grant a hearing before then.

The Bar already runs a Free Representation Unit, in which Bar students take on tribunal cases for nothing. Individual chambers, specialist Bar groups, regional circuits of barristers and City solicitors have all launched free schemes, but this is the first to be run at Bar Council level.

It will draw upon top lawyers who are used to high earnings. Normally a partner in a City solicitors' practice would charge £200 an hour and a Queen's Counsel working on a court hearing could be on a brief

fee of between £10,000 and £50,000, depending on the complexity of the case, plus a daily top-up fee of £2,500.

The scheme, which is not intended to be a substitute for legal aid, will have a full-time administrator and will operate from rooms in Gray's Inn. About £20,000 has been raised by the profession to launch the scheme, which will qualify for charitable status.

Other top barristers who have signalled their support include Peter Goldsmith, QC, a former Bar chairman and reputedly one of the highest earners at the commercial Bar. He said: "I believe there is a

strong moral argument that those lawyers who can afford to commit their time should be prepared to provide some *pro bono* work."

A management committee will be set up to sift applications for support and to establish ground rules for the kind of cases that will qualify.

Mr Goldsmith was responsible for contacting Mr Levy to take on the case of the Zulu boy after another solicitor, Beverley Golden, highlighted his plight in a Sunday newspaper. She said she was delighted that the lawyers were to seek leave to appeal. After the Court of Appeal hearing, at which it was ordered that the boy should have no

contact with the white family for one year, lawyers advised that there was no chance of an appeal.

Mr Goldsmith added: "Legal aid must still be the principal means of providing legal services to those who cannot afford to pay. Recent cuts in eligibility have seen hundreds of thousands drop out of the legal-aid safety net."

"A small profession like the Bar could never plug that gap, but what it can do is to tackle specific and acute instances of potential injustice by offering its services for the public good."

Law, page 33

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man in care starved to death

A pensioner who was visited three times a day, seven days a week by social workers who helped to prepare his meals starved to death in his ward-controlled flat.

Lloyd Wilkinson, 79, a bomb-disposal expert in the Second World War, was found dead in bed at his home in Bedford the day after his last visit.

The cause of death was given as starvation at an inquest opened and adjourned by Bedfordshire coroner David Morris. An internal inquiry has been started by Bedfordshire Social Services.

Union ballot tied

A ballot over industrial action among members of the Communication Workers Union in the South West ended in an 862-all draw. It is the first known case of a dead heat in a big ballot in the history of the union movement.

Cost of dying up

Funeral costs have risen by 38 per cent to an average of £1,523 over the past three years, almost six times the inflation rate. Burials in the South East cost 22 per cent more than average and half as much again as the South West, the cheapest region.

Hilton evacuated

Five hundred guests and staff were evacuated from the Hilton hotel in Park Lane, central London, after a fire in a guest bedroom. The fire broke out in a suite on the 22nd floor, causing smoke damage to adjoining rooms. There were no injuries.

Spy base for sale

The American surveillance base at Brawdy, Dyfed, is being put up for sale by its owner, the Ministry of Defence. The seven-acre site, surrounded by security fencing and watchtowers, was used by the Americans for more than 20 years.

Called to account

BBC managers are being sent on two-day training breaks at hotels to learn how to use a new telephone system. But the corporation claims the exercise saves licence-payers' money because it avoids paying the phone company to run the system.

Five strike lucky

Five ticket holders share this week's National Lottery rollover jackpot of £21.2 million, each winning £4.2 million. A further 40 winners receive £84,210 each for matching five numbers plus the bonus ball. Winning numbers, page 18

Rabies law traps sad dogs and Englishmen who went out for new life in the sun

Pet subject of the ex-pats threatens to cost Tory seats

FROM BILL FROST IN ANTIBES

AN estimated 100,000 British expatriates on the Côte d'Azur are united as never before in a campaign which should worry John Major. The lotus eaters who retired to the sun are usually Tory postal voters, but they say the Prime Minister will suffer at the next election for condemning their pets to permanent exile or death in quarantine.

They are determined to overturn or flout British anti-rabies laws which prevent them bringing their animals home for short visits. The average £1,500 cost of the required six-month quarantine is attacked as prohibitive, and at least ten animals are said to die behind the wire

every four weeks. The case of Quintus and Bendeux is typical. Despite their pampered Mediterranean lifestyle, the two pedigree Australian terriers (bred in Worcester, formative years spent in Chelsea) are really missing England, according to their owners.

But British law says that they and an estimated 200,000 four-legged British exiles in the South of France might be rabid. It's the hottest issue in a once steadfastly Tory ex-pat community now threatening to vote Labour.

Michael and Judy Sabey brought Quintus and Bendeux from Chelsea to a palatial home in an exclusive corner of Saint Laurent du Var outside

Nice five years ago. At first sight, all four give the impression that they have never endured a moment's worry or irritation since leaving London.

Two minutes' conversation with the couple is enough to shatter the shimmering illusion. They claim that John Major hates animals and they threaten to use their votes to dish him at the next general election. The number of ex-pat votes is enough to make a difference in some constituencies. As the dogs gambol on the grass, their owners telephone Labour and Liberal Democrat politicians in the hope of gaining support for a legal change.

"None of the British pets out here has rabies. They've all been inoculated," Mrs Sabey said. "Why can't we take our dogs and cats home for holidays like Easter, Christmas or, for that matter, any other time of the year?"

"Britain seems to allow some very unsavoury human specimens to come in when my perfect dogs are kept out. And the boys really need a trip to a hairdresser, a British hairdresser."

There is no doubting the strength of feeling among British expatriates over the issue. According to the letters column of *Riviera Reporter*, the English-language magazine for the Côte d'Azur, the "Passports for Pets" campaign has united the ex-pats against the Tories.

"There are about 100,000 of us in this position and we are all angry, very angry," says Mr Sabey, who took his wife and "the boys" to the sun after doing rather well in London as a chartered surveyor. "Some have already broken the law

and smuggled their pets home rather than leave them pining in quarantine. It's quite easy if you know how."

The Sabeyes and their numerous allies in the South of France point to the House of Commons all-party agriculture select committee report of October 1994 which unanimously recommended a review of the existing law. The committee said that dogs and cats should be positively identified by microchip or tattoo; have spent at least six months in an approved country before coming to Britain; be vaccinated from the age of three

months against rabies and be blood-tested by an approved laboratory to ensure the shots conferred immunity.

Quintus and Bendeux qualify on every count. So too do the majority of British-owned pets on the Côte d'Azur, say the Sabeyes and their army of friends.

The ex-pats have powerful allies at home to lobby for them. The great and the good — peers, vets and millionaire dog-lovers — have all added their support to the "Passports for Pets" campaign.

However, the Government shelved the committee's re-

port. "Major's unwillingness to listen to reason condemns thousands of pets to death and stress-related illness while in quarantine when their owners take them home for good," said Mrs Sabey.

Her husband added: "All the Britons out here are obsessive about this subject, and with very good reason too. It's absolutely scandalous. British laws on rabies were made in the 1920s before a vaccine was available."

Mrs Sabey seethes with rage that her "boys" are condemned to quarantine or exile. "I am sure that John

Major is not a dog man, if anything I would imagine he is a budgie fancier. But he should realise that there was once a staunch block of Tory voters out here who would now vote New Labour or even Socialist Workers' Party if they backed a change in the quarantine law."

"This is not just an offence against dogs, it is also a breach of our human rights. We made that point in a 2,000-signature petition I presented at 10 Downing Street."

"Major never even bothered to reply — just a deafening silence. How bloody rude."



Michael Sabey and his wife Judy with their dogs: "All the Britons out here are obsessive about this subject"

LOVE ME, LOVE MY BEST FRIEND

MORE than 40 per cent of dog owners would rather spend a weekend with their pet than with their partners or friends, according to a survey.

As they grow older, humans become even more passionate about their dogs: almost 60 per cent of dog-owning pensioners said they loved their pets more than their partners. At any age, almost half of women owners put their dog before the men in their life.

The survey of 2,000 adults, carried out for a dog-food manufacturer, showed that nine out of ten of those questioned felt that dogs had a much happier existence than their owners. Dogs take priority at feeding time, too: about 60 per cent said that the family dog was likely to be fed long before



the family itself. David Watson, consultant vet for the company, said: "In an increasingly stressful world, the family dog is a blissful constant. Pertinent to the hectic 90s is finding that one in three dog owners believe their dogs help to reduce stress."

Owners said that gaining a dependable friend was the main reason to keep a dog.

Magic pill for flagging sex life some years off

"ISN'T there a pill I could take, doctor?" is the usual reaction from middle-aged or older men when offered a penile injection to restore a sex-life that has withered for want of an erection.

The hope that a pill will become available for these male patients has been boosted by reports that the long-awaited results of a British trial of a drug, sildenafil, made by Pfizer, is to be presented at the meeting of the American Urological Association next month. It will still be some years before the pill is generally available.

Neither an injection of Caverject, the best available treatment at the moment for treatable impotence, nor presumably a dose of sildenafil



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

will correct impotence if the penile mechanics have irretrievably broken down, either because of failure of the blood supply — the coronary arteries are not the only ones to become furred with advancing years — or because of leaking valves in the corpora cavernosa, the cylinders in the penis which become engorged with blood during sexual excite-

ment. The Pfizer trial of sildenafil has been taking place for some years but occasionally word slips out from a clinic in Kent or Sussex of its apparent success and the consequent optimism of both the doctors and their patients. The drug is taken about an hour before intercourse is expected to take place and enhances only the effect of

sexual excitement. If the evening does not follow the expected pattern and a forgotten meeting with the parochial church council is remembered, there is no embarrassment from visual evidence of a frustrated desire.

Caverject — prostaglandin E — which relaxes the smooth muscles within the corpora cavernosa, is made by Upjohn. The injection is given into the corpora cavernosa through a very fine needle held at right angles.

Patients assure me that it is virtually painless but produces a response that recalls memories of their youth. Unlike the erections produced by earlier intrapenile injections, those produced by Caverject usually wear off within an

hour and problems from priapism, a persistent erection lasting for more than four hours, are exceptionally rare.

Other methods of delivering prostaglandin E have been tried; there was success in using it as a cream designed to be squeezed into the urethra, but despite an encouraging hospital trial there are no plans to market it commercially.

Another pharmaceutical firm is well advanced in its plans to introduce a cream containing a vasodilator drug that will improve the penile blood supply when it is applied externally to the skin. Initial results from the use of this cream have been good and it is expected that it will go into manufacture.

Hepatitis fear prompts call for patients to use own blood

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE discovery of a new strain of hepatitis led to a call yesterday for patients to use their own blood in transfusions. Hepatitis G is the latest virus to be identified in human beings and is probably carried by more than 800,000 people in the United Kingdom.

Lesley Kay, a leading consultant haematologist, said new diseases were always being found which required extra screening of blood samples, and suggested that patients have their own blood removed and stored before operations if only a little was required.

"I am a big advocate of having your own blood because we are forever chasing the next virus," Dr Kay, of Medical Diagnostic Laborato-

ries, which serves several major private London hospitals, said.

"What is the next danger from blood? We had HIV-1 then we discovered there was a variant, HIV-2. We had Hepatitis C then we realised there was a variant, Hepatitis G. With worldwide travel, sexual freedom and drug abuse we are going to get more of these viruses."

Blood in Britain is already screened for syphilis, Hepatitis B and C and two types of HIV. Foreign countries use more stringent tests for Hepatitis B and also look for HTLV-1, a virus that can lead to cancer. Hepatitis G has been identified in the past year and there are already calls for screening. Already some parts

of Britain, particularly in the North of England, are using surgery techniques in which the results of bleeding can be returned to the patient. In some surgery, such as knee replacements, bleeding happens when the tourniquet is removed.

Early studies of Hepatitis G suggest it is carried by at least 1.5 per cent of blood donors. It appears to be related to Hepatitis C, which is associated with a spectrum of liver problems including cancer. The effects of the new virus are still unknown but, since it seems more widespread than C, it probably is less dangerous. Scientists suspect that it has been in the human population for thousands of years but is only now being recognised.

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BOOK OFFER

At a Service Near You

Ruth Gledhill, religious affairs correspondent of *The Times*, visited nearly 200 places of worship for the series in Weekend. *At a Service*, and this book is a collection of 63 of those engaging articles.

Not quite the ecclesiastical equivalent of *The Good Pub Guide*, but Gledhill does assess the quality of the leadership, architecture, sermon, music, liturgy, after-service care and spiritual high at the churches she visits.

She describes the atmosphere, the sort of people who attend, the style of the worship, the quality of preaching and anything that particularly strikes her, even the coffee.

As the daughter of an Anglican clergyman, Gledhill has been attending church regularly since childhood and the experience of visiting so many has had an impact on her own faith.

"I began the series as a churchgoing Anglican with fairly traditionalist views," she says. "The experience has made me more liberal in belief and more open to evangelical styles of worship, in particular the joy and movement that comes with some of the best spiritual songs."

Ruth believes churches are more than places of worship. They are also community centres in a world where neighbourhood communities are vanishing. They provide an oasis of peace in a noisy environment. The best churches preach faith as the foundation for true healing and happiness and impart to her the sense of God's presence.

At a Service Near You makes enjoyable reading. Anyone who wants to find out about a church in an area they are visiting, or simply curious about local churches, will find it extremely helpful.

Readers can get a copy of *At a Service Near You: British Churches — The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* for only £6.49 (normal price £7.99) including postage and packing and with an inserted book plate signed by the author.

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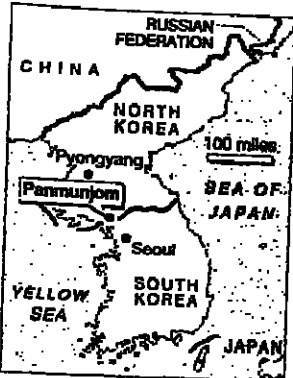
Troops in South Korea placed on high alert

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AMERICAN troops in South Korea were put on high alert at the weekend, as a third incursion of North Korean soldiers into the demilitarised zone yesterday raised tensions in the divided peninsula.

About 300 heavily armed soldiers entered the joint security area at the Panmunjom border crossing in 12 lorries. They began to leave more than two hours later. The violation of the armistice, which ended the Korean War in 1953, came after two incursions on Friday and Saturday. After the first, President Kim Young Sam of South Korea ordered "heightened, iron-fist" defence. Under the armistice, only 35 military police from each side may enter the 2½-mile-wide demilitarised zone.

Each incursion was larger than the last, taking place in the evening and lasting about two hours. On Saturday, soldiers carrying rifles and machineguns entered the buffer zone in nine lorries, but did no more than demonstrate their defiance. On Friday, 120



North Korean soldiers stayed in the area for two hours.

South Korea announced a state of emergency around the joint security area, and some units were ordered to "prepare to deal with a possible emergency". They are on the highest alert in 15 years. President Kim called the first incursion a dangerous escalation of Pyongyang's provocations, while a North Korean newspaper accused the South of preparing an invasion and said the peninsula was on "the eve of war". The paper said North Korea would be forced to take a counter-measure.

United Nations forces along

the frontier said there was no immediate threat from the North. The United States, which has 37,000 troops in South Korea, announced increased surveillance after the first incursion, but otherwise responded in a low-key manner. A statement from the UN Command and the South Korea-US Combined Forces Command said yesterday that they were "concerned" by the latest events. However, it added: "The combined and allied leadership see no other evidence of movement of troops or other military that would suggest any imminent threat."

James Laney, the American Ambassador to Seoul, met Gong Ro Myung, the Foreign Minister, and they confirmed that they would maintain a "strong defence readiness" against the North. The State Department said that, although the incursions violated truces, they appeared to reflect North Korea's attempt to distance itself from the Korean War armistice and to deal directly with Washington.

North Korea has taken an increasingly aggressive line towards the South. In 1994 it

withdrew from the military armistice commission that oversees the truce and banned UN monitors from entering its territory at the Panmunjom crossing. It has demanded a bilateral peace agreement with Washington.

President Clinton is due to visit South Korea next week on his way to Japan.

North Korea has a million men under arms compared with 650,000 South Korean troops. The North's Chinese and Soviet-era weapons are outdated, however, and strategists say they would be no match for the better-equipped South Korean army.

American officials suggest that the latest incidents are intended to increase diplomatic leverage rather than serve as a prelude to a frontal attack across the armistice line.

The timing appears to be linked to South Korea's parliamentary elections on Thursday. President Kim's New Korea Party is expected to lose its absolute majority in the national assembly, but the North's sabre-rattling may rally voters in the South around the Government.



South Koreans look through telescopes across the demilitarised zone yesterday

Kashmir hostages 'held in village'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN SRINAGAR

INDIAN troops have pulled out of the Wadwan Hills in southeast Kashmir after identifying the area where they believe four Western hostages, including two Britons, are being held by Muslim extremists in a village hut.

The army said it feared an accidental confrontation between the militants and troops which could endanger the captives' lives. According to military intelligence, based on sightings by local people, all four men are alive.

Scotland Yard officers, trained in hostage negotiation, are in India in the hope of finding a breakthrough. Paul Wells and Keith Mangan from Britain, Donald Hutchings of America, and Dirk Hasert, a German, have entered their tenth month of captivity and radio contacts with Al Faran, the kidnap group, have broken down. The authorities are baffled by the long silence and the main theory is that the captors do not know how to end the crisis.



Generalissimo and Madame Chiang flank Earl Mountbatten on a visit to British India in 1943

Chiang's home town mourns loss of its Taiwanese tourists

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN XIEKOU, CHINA

JUST two months ago, this picturesque little town near China's eastern coast was swarming with Taiwanese tourists visiting the birthplace of Chiang Kai-shek, the late Chinese Nationalist Party leader, but for the past few weeks since Peking launched military exercises in the Taiwan Strait not a single Taiwanese has appeared, locals said yesterday.

"They are afraid to come, and business is hurting," said Chiang Suzhong, 37, who like many people in Xiekou shares a surname with the leader who died in 1975 and claims distant kinship to the man he calls lord. "Last year we had

Taiwanese tourists every day, but now because of the recent tension, they have stopped coming." The younger Chiang is a guide to the birthplace, former home and school of the Nationalist leader, who fled with his troops to Taiwan in 1949 when the Communist armies of his arch-enemy, Mao Tse-tung, won control of the mainland. In the anti-landlord campaign of the early 1950s, many other Chiang descendants were shot, imprisoned or sent to labour camps, locals said.

Yet there are still plenty of visitors to the Chiang ancestral home in Zhejiang province, although they are less wealthy Chinese citizens, not free-spending Taiwanese. Altogether one and a half million came last year.

The Taiwanese became nervous over fears that conflict would break out between China and Taiwan during the war games which ended in late March, after the Taiwanese presidential elections easily won by incumbent President Lee Teng-hui, who may have been helped by the Chinese sabre-rattling.

Surprisingly, Generalissimo Chiang, once Mao's nemesis, has undergone something of a rehabilitation in China, at a time when Peking has heaped abuse on Mr Lee as a "splittist" alleged-

ly bent on seeking independence for the prosperous island territory regarded by China as a renegade province.

Damage done by the Red Guards, who smashed Chiang family graves and scattered the bones of Chiang's mother, has been repaired, as has earlier devastation caused by Japanese bombs.

People's Liberation Army (PLA) officers, carrying their caps, were at the weekend touring the cobbled courtyards of Chiang's old residence, although their colleagues in neighbouring Fujian province were only last month firing missiles into the sea off Taiwan.

"Chiang made valuable contributions to the anti-Japanese struggle," said an elderly visitor from Shanghai, touring exhibits which included snapshots of Chiang with Churchill and Roosevelt. "Mao and Chiang may have had ideological differences, but Chiang always believed that China was one country and that Taiwan was part of China, unlike the present rulers there. The situation has been a little tense recently. Perhaps our Taiwan compatriots will return soon."

Grassroots economic matters, such as the relative prosperity that has come to this once neglected town since Peking began a more open policy towards Taiwan in 1986, and even encouragement to invest in Zhejiang, in part explain Chiang's return from purgatory.

Uneasy Taiwanese businessmen, 100,000 of whom have invested £16.5 billion since China's opening, certainly hope for a return of the strategy of co-operation between Mao and Chiang for a rare period in the 1930s, as do traders and guides like young Chiang who drives visitors around in a canopied bicycle trishaw.

But it may be some time before they make the pilgrimage here again.

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Mangled proverb led to arrest in Unabomber hunt

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

A MANGLED proverb provided the FBI with a clue that led them to believe Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski, a 53-year-old hermit from the wilds of Montana, is the most wanted man in America. In letters to his octogenarian mother, Mr Kaczynski used the expression "you can't eat your cake and have it, too". The same inverted construction was used by Unabomber, who is wanted for a deadly bombing campaign which lasted for 18 years.

Mr Kaczynski, who was arrested last week, is being detained on a holding charge related to a homemade bomb found at his cabin. A grand jury in Great Falls, Montana, may confirm further charges later this month.

Wanda Kaczynski allowed FBI agents to look at letters from her son that she had kept over the years. She did so, confident that they would prove he had nothing to do with the Unabomber. In addition to the "eat your cake" maxim, the letters contained rambling philosophical monologues which bear comparisons to the 35,000-word manifesto sent by the Unabomber to newspapers last year. Mr Kaczynski's letters were typed, as was the bomber's manifesto. Examples of the two will be examined by Martin Tytell, an 82-year-old typewriter expert from New York. Ironically, if the technophobe Unabomber had relied on a computer printer he might have denied the FBI vital evidence.

Unabomber investigators, who were tipped off by Mr Kaczynski's younger brother, appear increasingly confident that he is their man, but the United States Attorney General's office continued to exercise legal caution. Experts have speculated that Mr Kaczynski could be tried in the various states where the Unabomber struck. The District Attorney in Sacramento, California, boasted that her city was the easiest place in which to secure a death sentence, and Pete Wilson, California's Governor, said he would work to ensure that the trial was held there.

The object of their unseemly squabbling, Ted Kaczynski, looked perplexed by the array of cameras and reporters' shouts of "Are you the Unabomber?" as he faced the media. He walked busily, his head bobbing up and down as he checked the ground, with his hands held together like a monk in cloisters. The former maths professor's now-washed hair is springy, and his filthy old clothes have been replaced by a bright orange prison jumpsuit.

Outside Lincoln, Montana, FBI agents allowed reporters a closer look at the outside of the handbuilt, 10ft by 12ft plywood cabin where Mr Kaczynski lived, enduring the merciless winters without electricity or plumbing. In thick snows he must have struggled outside to use a nearby stream as a toilet. Inside, the cabin was dark, the only natural light filtering through two inadequate, dirty windows. The single door has three locks, a level of protection rare in a rural community where neighbours lend each other tools, swap vegetables and leave the door open.

Investigators are going through the contents of 40 boxes of assorted belongings found in a loft in the cabin. One neighbour recalled him as "a sweet little neighbour", but Carol Wells, a Lincoln shopkeeper, said that "this was not his home, just his hiding place".

Police have yet to understand how a seemingly penniless hermit can allegedly have conducted a nationwide bombing campaign. Mr Kaczynski made occasional bus journeys, using the daily service connecting Lincoln to Montana's capital, Helena, 30 miles away, and to Missoula, about 100 miles to the west. From there one can catch Greyhound buses to destinations across the country.

For Lincoln, meanwhile, a small economic boom is taking place thanks to the massed ranks of reporters and FBI investigators. Wayne Cashman, owner of the Blackfoot River Inn, said: "This time of year is usually really slow. It has been a real help." Souvenirs were swiftly marketed, from \$40 (\$26) Unabomber T-shirts to \$20 baseball caps. There has also been the sighting of the first taxi in Lincoln, hired in Helena by a CBS News reporter.



Kaczynski's expert is to examine his typewriter



Athletes in period running gear help to re-enact the first modern Olympics at the Panathenean stadium in Athens where the ancient Games were revived 100 years ago.

More than 30,000 people braved unusual cold to join the raucous party. Athletes from the original ten countries, Australia, Britain, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hunga-

First Olympic Games re-run

ry, Sweden and America, competed on Saturday night in some of the 43 original events for olive wreaths and silver and bronze medals — there were no gold medals in 1896.

"We had a lot of fun. You get overwhelmed by the history here which can't be compared to any medal. I can say I've run in this stadium," Roger Kingdom, a two-time gold medalist, said. The centennial Games in Atlanta this summer will include 10,000 athletes from 197 countries competing in 271 events. The Olympic torch is being taken around the Greek islands before it begins its journey to Georgia. (Reuters)

Albright tipped for the top in next Clinton Cabinet

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WHEN St Mary's girls' school in North Carolina wanted to invite Madeleine Albright, the Ambassador to the United Nations, to give a speech last month it enlisted the help of its right-wing local senator.

Jesse Helms, America's harshest UN critic, wrote to Mrs Albright to persuade her to visit his rural, tobacco-growing constituency. The ambassador accepted the invitation on condition that Mr Helms appear at the event to introduce her.

The event went swimmingly. Mrs Albright used the occasion to make a policy address on UN-American relations. Mr Helms nodded approvingly at every mention of UN reform and refrained from criticising her proposal that Washington pay off its billion-dollar debt to the world body over the next five years.

The gathering was the clearest sign yet of one of the most curious courtships in current American politics between a diehard Democrat and the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"He is charmed by women: she knows how to charm an old Southern senator," one political insider explained. "It's all gooey. It makes me want to throw up."

Mrs Albright's blossoming relationship with Mr Helms is one of a number of factors that have made her the clear front-runner to succeed Warren Christopher as Secretary of State in a second Clinton Administration.

Others are lining up for Mr Christopher's job, should President Clinton be re-elected in November, as looks likely. They include Richard Holbrooke, the former Bosnia troubleshooter now working on Wall Street; Strobe Talbott, the Deputy Secretary of State; and Lee Hamilton, a Demo-

crat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. According to the conventional wisdom, however, Mrs Albright is the woman to beat.

The significance of her friendship with Mr Helms is that his committee, with its Republican majority, controls the confirmation by the Senate of the next Secretary of State.

This fact is not lost on Mrs Albright, who began her political career in the 1970s as an aide to Edmund Muskie, then a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The Prague-born daughter of a Czech diplomat, sentenced to death in absentia in 1949 by his country's new Communist rulers, Mrs Albright has impeccable credentials as a Cold Warrior. As UN Ambassador, she has taken a decidedly neo-conservative line on Iraq, Cuba, North Korea, Libya and the Palestinians.

Some Democrats complain that Mrs Albright spends too much time on Capitol Hill wooing Congressional leaders. However, she is said to have impressed Mr Clinton with her sage advice on Bosnia last summer when America finally unleashed its air power against the Serbs.



Albright: wooing votes on Senate committee

Teenage boys kill themselves for love of a schoolgirl, 12

BY QUENTIN LETTIS

TWO 15-year-old boys involved in a love triangle killed themselves in desperation at their romantic plight, after police stopped them for speeding in a stolen car. An alert state trooper managed to stop the 12-year-old girl they both loved from shooting herself as well.

A weeping Jennifer Waldroup was restrained by the Arkansas state trooper moments after her would-be boyfriends, Joshua Rogers and Kevin Hyde, died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds to the head from a .22 pistol.

The three children, from North Carolina, had stolen the car and were miles from home when they were spotted driving through Arkansas at more than 100mph.

Police chased them until the car eventually pulled up at a lay-by, where Corporal Freddie Hudson left his patrol car to talk to them.

As the state trooper approached the vehicle, there were two shots as the boys killed themselves.

He rushed towards the car and found Jennifer scrambling around on the floor of

the car, trying to find the pistol. "They had all agreed to kill themselves and the girl would have kept her end of the bargain if our officer had not been alert," said Wayne Jordan, of the Arkansas state police. "She was screaming 'Kill me, I want to die'."

After being calmed by Corporal Hudson, the girl told investigators that the two boys were in a quandary because they were both in love with her.

"We were going west," she said. "We didn't know where. We were just going."

Weeping Clinton salutes Brown

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN A simple ceremony, the bodies of Ron Brown, the American Secretary of Commerce, and 32 other people who died in the Dubrovnik air crash, were returned to American soil as their grieving families and President Clinton looked on.

A 19-gun salute echoed at dusk on Saturday across the Dover air force base in Delaware where the American trade mission to help the Balkans rebuild in peace ended in tears.

Mr Clinton, his voice breaking, said: "The sun is going down on this day. The next time it rises it will be Easter morning, a day that marks the passage from loss and despair to hope and redemption... What they did while the sun was out will last with us forever."

Mr Clinton paid special tribute to Mr Brown, a political ally and an architect of his own 1992 election victory. "He was a noble Secretary of Commerce who never saw a mountain he couldn't climb, or a river he couldn't build a bridge across."

The strain of the occasion showed clearly on Mr Clinton's face. He finally broke down after the ceremony as he walked to Air Force One to fly back to Washington.

Chirac accused of weapons deal to save French pilots

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC was embroiled in controversy yesterday after French television reported that he had sanctioned weapons sales to Bosnian Serbs to secure the release of two pilots shot down over the former Yugoslavia.

The report on the independent TFI channel, which was denied by the French authorities, claimed that Paris had paid Russia to supply arms to the forces of Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic last December.

Mr Chirac has maintained there were neither negotiations nor deals with the Bosnian Serbs, who captured the airmen after their Mirage 2000 was hit over Pale during a Nato mission last August. Captain Frederic Chiffot and

Lieutenant José Souvignat were held hostage for 103 days amid growing anxiety in France. When they were freed, Mr Chirac went out of his way to thank President Yeltsin without whom, he said, the release "would not have been possible". He said the Russian leader had helped by putting pressure on Dr Karadzic and General Mladic. But in a report for its main evening news bulletin on Saturday, TFI said that Mr Yeltsin's intervention was far more significant than President Chirac had led his compatriots to believe.

It said Jean-Charles Marchiani, an intelligence specialist who is close to President Chirac's Gaullist movement, had been involved in talks with the Bosnian Serbs, overseen by Russian agents. This led to a complex deal, with France buying weapons in Moscow and asking Russia to deliver them to Pale, the television station claimed.

The report included an interview with a man identified as Colonel Vladimir Koulich of the Russian foreign intelligence agency. He said he had been involved in the talks alongside M Marchiani. At the time of the release, there was speculation that General Mladic had demanded immunity from prosecution for war crimes.

The French Defence Ministry said: "There were neither negotiations, nor compensations, nor exchanges for the release of the pilots."

Serbs face PoW ultimatum

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN DUBROVNIK

THE Bosnian Serbs are likely to be excluded from a Dayton peace accord, said Bosnian Serb officials had handed over files on 16 suspected war criminals but they had failed to meet the requirements on prisoners.

His announcement came only days after Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary, and a delegation of American business executives were killed in a plane crash after visiting Bosnia on a reconstruction mission. Their

deaths will also hamper the rebuilding process. Mr Bildt said the conference would go ahead. "It looks as if I would be able to give the green light for the conference, but not for the participation of the Bosnian Serbs," he said.

When the deadline passed, the Croats, who were holding 44 PoWs, released 28; the Muslims, who were detaining 28, freed 18; and the Serbs, who were holding 16, failed to release any.

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The French Defence Ministry said: "There were neither negotiations, nor compensations, nor exchanges for the release of the pilots."

WORLD SUMMARY

Liberian feud sets city ablaze

Monrovia: Fighting and looting erupted in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, yesterday after the Council of State ordered the arrest of a deposed warlord on murder charges.

Rival factions exchanged fire and set buildings ablaze when fighting spread to the city centre, particularly around barracks of the former national army.

The clashes began around the home of Roosevelt Johnson, a deposed faction leader, and forced thousands of civilians to flee. Council member Charles Taylor, who launched Liberia's civil war in 1989, said on radio: "The decision now is for the police to bring Mr Johnson to justice." (Reuters)

Iraq 'oil for food' talks to resume

New York: Talks on an "oil for food" scheme allowing Iraq to start selling crude for the first time since the Gulf War are due to resume in New York today (James Bone writes). Two rounds of talks have been held this year on the United Nations-approved proposal which would allow Iraq to sell up to \$1bn (\$649 million) of oil every three months in order to raise money for food and medicines.

Fresh search for abducted Briton

Phnom Penh: The employer of a British mine-clearing expert and his Cambodian translator, who have been taken hostage by Khmer Rouge rebels, said it might launch its own search from Thailand. Archie McCarron, the director of the Mines Advisory Group in Cambodia, said that there had been "absolutely no news" of Christopher Howes, from Bristol, and Huon Hourth. (AFP)

Island volcano erupts again

Plymouth, Montserrat: A volcano hurled tons of ash miles into the air, preventing evacuated islanders from retrieving belongings they had abandoned in Plymouth, the capital, after an eruption on Wednesday. It was the third evacuation since the Soufriere Hills volcano became active in July, after hundreds of years of being dormant. (AP)

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Picnic at North Pole

BY QUENTIN LETTIS

ONE OF the richest women in America will next week make a day trip to the North Pole to have a picnic and to "find" herself.

Marylou Vanderbilt Whitney, a vivacious widow, has commissioned two small aircraft — one of them a fuel plane — to fly her and three companions to the Pole. They intend to alight, admire the view for an hour or so, and

Mrs Whitney, an acquaintance of the Prince of Wales, holds that "if you have some fears you need to conquer them", and that "money does not make you happy — it's the way you live life that is important". She hopes that the adventure will help her to "grow as a person". Mrs Whitney, who is believed to be nudging 70, has also organised the trip as a 91st birthday present to Norman Vaughan, who will be along for the ride.

Mr Vaughan is a former explorer who mushed dogs for Admiral Byrd on his trip to Antarctica in 1928. Mrs Whitney thought it would be "neat"

for him to have stood full square on both Poles, "the bottom and top of the world".

The North Pole visit in two ski-equipped Twin Otter aeroplanes will not be without danger. Mrs Whitney's assistant, Courtney Callahan, said: "We'll be landing on broken, moving ice and will spend about an hour at the Pole. It will be up to the pilots to say exactly how long we stay. They will probably be quite anxious to get going." Miss Callahan added that a picnic may be packed, perhaps with a flask of bourbon from Mrs Whitney's home state of Kentucky, although the well-preserved millionaire prefers to drink vinegar.

Mrs Whitney will wear a bright yellow and pink jacket with matching trousers over long underwear and "bunny boots", similar to those worn by Eskimos. She seems to like the cold. Last year she and Mr Vaughan looked in on Antarctica, where their party slept in igloos and ate Spam; and she cooked her forte — lemon meringue pie.



Marylou Whitney, pictured at a pet show, walking a friend's dalmatian

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "ماتى كذا"

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

French ho in pill sw

Polisario

Which is where cyberspace ought to come in. Net surfers need not worry about national borders, national authorities, national tradition or the baggage of the past in any form. If there was ever an opportunity to create a new European *avant* the Net's

That's the theory; practice is different. I may have missed it (and inexperienced cybernauts like me can miss a

National governments and the European Commission and Parliament have lumbered into action and set up web sites. The Foreign Office dumps 7,000 documents a week into <http://www.fco.gov.uk/> and if you want to argue with Malcolm Rifkind's EU White Paper, you can e-mail the Foreign Secre-

You might have thought that the European Commission wanted to upgrade its battered image. The Eurocrats have produced "Europa" (<http://www.cec.lu>), which has beautiful flags but is otherwise a yawn. There is plenty of data, but it is not updated very often.

Declares on the development of the Net snap, crackle and pop elsewhere. The war of words over ineffectual attempts by the Mannheim public prosecutor to suppress Ernst Zündel, the German-Canadian apologist for the Nazis, has been conducted

In Britain, the gently subversive David Delaney (<http://www.kc31td.co.uk/profile/eurofollie/>) has assembled a rich, tragicomic list of Euro-lunacies. Euro-myths and officials' replies. You can follow the sad saga of the mushy-pea maker in Derbyshire who may be driven out of business by a directive banning the pea

The great and good of the EU are struggling with the cyberworld. Ideas for pan-European legislation were last heard of stuck in a turf fight between two European Commissioners. Their web site style is jammed in a time warp. As my 10 and 12-year-old sons might say, so far they're cybernerds.

GEORGE BROCK



FROM SIMON WALKER
WULUGU, NORTHERN GHANA

After a ceremony lasting three days and nights amid the swirling dust, searing heat and incessant drumbeats, Mrs Symonds said: "I was scared stiff. It will add another dimension to my CV though, I suppose." At the climax of the rituals Mrs Symonds, the wife of

The honour, never before given to a white person by the Mamprusi tribe of northern Ghana, was bestowed by Chief Wulugunaba, the division chief of the Kpasenkpe area. Her elevation began three years ago when she attended an education conference in

The unexpected reward in recognition of her educational work is her honorary title as third in command of the Mamprusi tribe of 3,000 people living in 13 villages. It confers upon her, in theory at least, the power of life

and death over her subjects, but in practice she will hand out advice mainly on educational matters. She is spending 12 days in Ghana before returning to the chemistry laboratory and hockey pitch at Heathersett, and expects to visit her tribe twice a year.

"I think I'm just numb," Mrs Symonds said after the ceremony attended by Roger, her husband. "I didn't realise it would be as amazing as it was. It's very different from seeing it on David Attenborough than actually doing it for real."

Leading article, page 15

BY RICHARD OWEN

During Contrada's two-year trial several prominent figures made statements in his support. They included Rinaldo Coronas, the Interior Minister, Antonio Gava, a former Interior Minister, Fernando Masone, the national chief of police, and Riccardo Malpica, the former head of Sisde, the intelligence service.

The crackdown on the Mafia began in 1992 when Judge Giovanni Falcone, the anti-Mafia judge, was killed by a bomb near Palermo. It had begun to falter recently, and there were signs that the trial of Giulio Andreotti, the former Prime Minister accused of Mafia links, was becoming bogged down. Signor Andreotti goes on trial in Perugia this week on the charge of involvement in the murder in 1979 of Mino Pecorelli, an anti-Mafia journalist.

Contrada, 66, the third most senior official in the national intelligence service, was charged with "systemic collusion" with the Mafia.

Pope pleads for an end to persecution of Christians

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

Yesterday the Pope praised those who "at the cost of great sacrifice" were pursuing peace in Bosnia, Ireland and "particularly the Holy Land". Hopes for peace in the Middle East were still jeopardised by "recourse to force and violence". He asked Christ to "comfort those who reject the inevitability of ethnic rivalries in Burun-

The Vatican denied the fact that the Pope's left hand shook repeatedly yesterday meant that he had Parkinson's disease, or that recent bouts of illness — officially ascribed to flu and "digestive disorders" — were due to cancer of the colon. Vatican officials said the Pope was determined to maintain a rigorous programme of foreign travel.



Palestinians barred from Jerusalem sites

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

In Saint George's Cathedral in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, Samir Kafity, the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, denounced the five-week closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, imposed after Palestinian suicide bombers killed more than 60 people in nine days. Some would-be

On Saturday, about 1,000 Palestinians, Israeli peace campaigners and European tourists held a march in Bethlehem's Manger Square to protest at the closure, which most Palestinian Authority officials expect to last at least until the Israeli general election at the end of next month.

Despite a diplomatic intervention from France, the Israelis refused to make any exception for Arab pilgrims wanting to attend the Easter festivities, claiming to have received reliable intelligence that more suicide bombs were being planned by militants opposed to the peace process.

French hold record in pill swallowing

Further research indicates that about 25,000 of France's 165,000 doctors are superfluous, a suggestion that the Government has taken on

Nor does the country necessarily get good value for its money. French women may live longer than anyone except the Japanese, but French men tend to die at a younger age than their foreign counterparts.

Polisario rebels threaten to resume war against Morocco

FROM MARK HUBAND
IN BAROLINE SOUTHERN ALGERIA

The leader of the Polisario Front's war against the Moroccan occupation of the territory insisted that, if a United Nations-sponsored referendum allow-

Mohammed Abdelaziz, leader of the front and President of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic — a state without a country, recognised by 70 nations — said in an interview at his headquarters in Rabouni, south of the isolated Algerian town of Tindouf, that

"We are not looking for war, and we are concerned about finding a way of saving the [UN] settlement plan. But if war is imposed on us we will fight. We are seeking the appointment of an independent mediator, but not somebody from either the Organisation of African Unity or the UN. Somebody who can open dialogue." His call is

The Polisario Front has repeatedly accused the UN of favouring Moroccan interests, failing to investigate accusations of bias in the voter-registration process and allowing Morocco to intimidate and imprison those calling for a fair vote.



MUSICALS

Broadway star Mandy Patinkin makes his British stage debut performing show tunes at the Almeida Theatre, London, Monday

CABARET

Mulling it over

Denny Laine
Café Royal

ROWING

21

Light Blue victory puts dark cloud over Oxford

FOOTBALL

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Newcastle challenge hangs on wing and a prayer

RACING

29

Queen Mother returns for Irish conquest

SPORT FOR ALL

30

Taking to the air in a leap of faith

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 8 1996



Hill, the eventual winner, leads Schumacher, Alesi, Berger and the rest of the Formula One field through the opening lap of the Argentine Grand Prix in Buenos Aires. Photograph: Eduardo di Baia

Flawless drive leaves English challenger 18 points clear of field

Hill enjoys view from summit

FROM OLIVER HOIT
IN BUENOS AIRES

TROUBLE stuck to him like glue last season, but this year problems are flowing around Damon Hill and moulding him into a smooth stone. If there were bumps and jolts on the uneven circuit here yesterday, he seemed to glide over them; if many of his principle rivals were ravaged by car sickness, he and his haughty Williams-Renault were jauntily immune. Nothing, it seems, is impeding his sprint towards his first Formula One drivers' world championship.

Hill made it three grand prix wins out of three this season here at this track on the northern outskirts of the city, sailing home a country mile ahead of his team-mate and closest challenger, Jacques Villeneuve, of Canada. After a meteorologically effective race with no alarms, the Englishman is now 18 points out in front in the race for the 1996 world title.

He led from start to finish and ended, coasting, more than 12sec ahead of Villeneuve, who is being eased into the role of subservient team-mate in the face of Hill's mastery. In only his fourth season, Hill has now won 16 grands prix, the same number as Sirling Moss, and is closing on Nigel Mansell's record of five successive wins at the start of the 1992 season.

Hill was relentless, his Williams-Renault a class above the rest of the field in terms of both performance and reliability. As he pressed on and on, keeping a steady gap between himself and his pursuers throughout, the rest of the field simply fell away, as if in a dream.

Michael Schumacher, initially his closest challenger, was forced to retire after he lost part of his rear wing. He said it had been damaged when part of Hill's car flew off and he had to duck to avoid it. The pursuer's mantle was taken up, briefly, by Jean Alesi, in his Benetton-Renault, but his challenge was ruined when he stalled his car at his second pit-stop. His team-mate, Gerhard Berger, also ran second for a while, but he, too, was forced out of the race with mechanical problems.

Hill was unflappable. Even when the lead he had established early on was wiped out because a spectacular crash brought the safety car out and bunched up the field, he eased away effortlessly again. "It is a great day and a fantastic result," Hill said. "It is difficult

to imagine it getting any better than this. The result represents the force that we have at the team and I am very, very happy."

Hill had made the perfect start from the thirteenth pole position of his career, a beginning that was a match for the near-flawless, controlled driving he had produced all weekend. As Villeneuve was engulfed by a sea of advancing rivals, slipping back to ninth by the end of the first lap, Hill hurtled away from the front of the grid and left Schumacher trailing in his wake.

But the German had driven heroically all weekend, pushing himself and his car to its limits to fashion a lap-time so fast that he started alongside Hill on the front row. He had forced his equipment to the edge of its capabilities so that its nose cone twitched continually as he teetered on the brink of losing control.

For the first ten laps, everyone was transported back to the Hill-Schumacher duels of last season. After Hill had eked out a gap of 0.8sec in the first two laps, the world champion, who is having to dig deeper into the reserves of his ability than ever before as he races against being consigned to a season as an also-ran, clawed his way back.

He set the fastest time on the sixth lap and brought himself to within half a second of Hill. He almost attempted a dive inside his rival on two or three occasions, but thought better of it. Schumacher stayed with Hill as long as he could but then, inexorably, Hill started to pull away. By the end of the seventeenth lap, the Englishman was more than 4sec ahead.

The leading positions remained the same after the front-runners made their first round of pit-stops soon afterwards. But then a race which was threatening to become routine exploded into action with a series of accidents.

First, the Forti-Ford of Luca Badoer spun into a gravel trap on the 27th lap and flipped over on to its front. Badoer crawled out unhurt, but his car was left stranded in a dangerous position and the race organisers sent the safety car out on to the track to slow the rest of the field down.

That reduced Hill's lead to a car-length, but while the drivers were dawdling round, the engine on the Ligier Mugen-Honda of Pedro Diniz blew up and burst into flames. Diniz spun into the gravel, as burning fuel sloshed around him, and leapt out of the car, also unhurt.

When the safety car was pulled off the track on the 31st lap, Hill pulled away from Schumacher again. By the end of the 38th lap, he was nearly

3sec ahead of the German, who was coming under increasing pressure from Alesi. Two laps later, Schumacher pulled into the pits for his second stop, leaving Hill with a 4sec lead over Alesi. Alesi then ruined his chances of mounting a sustained challenge for victory when he stalled his Benetton-Renault in the pit-lane on his own second stop, losing 12sec in the process.

Hill was clear in the lead now, his rivals melting away behind him as they seem to have done so far this season. On the 46th lap, it got even better. Alesi caught and passed Schumacher for eighth place, then Barrichello passed him, too. At the end of the lap, clearly in trouble, the world champion pulled back into the pits and retired. He has managed only four points from his first three races.

When Hill emerged from his second pit stop on the fifteenth lap, he had extended his lead over his nearest challenger, Berger, to more than 13sec. Seven laps later, the Austrian's race was curtailed by mechanical problems, too. It was as though any car that dared to get too close to Hill was struck with a curse.

By now, Villeneuve, who was also on the two-stop strategy shared only by Hill, had moved into second place by default, comfortably ahead of Alesi, while Rubens Barrichello, who so narrowly missed out on third place in Brazil, had moved up to fourth at the end of the 62nd lap, a fitting reward for his perseverance.



Schumacher was forced to retire after 46 laps

DETAILS FROM BUENOS AIRES

RESULT: 1. D. Hill (GB), Williams-Renault 1hr 54min 55.322sec
2. J. Villeneuve (Can), Williams-Renault, at 12.167sec
3. J. Alesi (Fr), Benetton-Renault 14.754
4. R. Barrichello (Br), Jordan-Peugeot 55.131
5. E. Irvine (Ire), Ferrari, 1:04.981
6. J. Verstappen (Hol), Footwork-Hart, 1:08.913
7. D. Coulthard (GB), McLaren-Mercedes, 1:13.400
8. O. Panis (Fr), Ligier-Mugen Honda 1:14.255
9. J. Herbert (GB), Sauber-Ford V10, at one lap
10. A. Montemini (It), Forti-Ford V6, three laps

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1. Hill 30pts; 2. Villeneuve 12; 3. Alesi 10; 4. Irvine 6; 5. Hakkinen 5; 6. Schumacher 4; equal 7. Berger, Sato, Barrichello 3; equal 9. Panis and Verstappen 1. Constructors: 1. Williams-Renault 42; 2. Benetton-Renault 13; 3. Ferrari 10; 4. McLaren-Mercedes 5; equal 5. Tyrrell-Yamaha and Jordan-Peugeot 3; 6. Ugel-Mugen Honda 1.

REMAINING GRANDS PRIX: Apr 28: European, Nurburgring, Germany. May 5: San Marino, Imola. May 19: Spanish, Barcelona. June 2: Monaco, Monte Carlo. June 16: Canadian, Montreal. June 30: French, Magny Cours. July 14: British, Silverstone. July 28: German, Hockenheim. Aug 11: Hungarian, Budapest. Aug 25: Belgian, Spa-Francorchamps. Sept 8: Italian, Monza. Sept 22: Portuguese, Estoril. Oct 13: Japanese, Suzuka.

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Davies excels at messing about on the river

Someone had clearly lavished a lot of care in making it, but they had laboured in vain. "We love your tache, Des," proclaimed the home-made banner flying from the roof of the Putney block of flats and I'm sure Des Lynam was very grateful, but sadly — at least for its creator — it was Steve Rider's turn to do *Grandstand*. Lynam, you see, does the Grand National. Rider does the Boat Race. Worth remembering for next year, perhaps.

Last year, Rider bravely presented the programme from the Putney embankment, where he was almost lost in a unruly sea of beer mugs and college sweatshirts. This year, someone had sensibly put him on a boat-house balcony. Here the only real problem he had to contend with was being

dwarfed by his guests. Modern oarsmen, we were repeatedly reminded, are very big indeed. Perhaps the BBC could lash out on a small set of steps for next year.

After an early wobble (upsetting the well-heeled, riverside residents of Putney, Barnes and Chiswick by describing the course as an "unremarkable stretch of river"), Rider recovered well and presented the build-up with his normal practised ease, helped by a technical team that could probably get the hairs on the back of your neck standing up before an under-five's egg and spoon race. Rider's knowledge of rowing, however, begins and ends with the Boat Race, as interviews with Steven Redgrave revealed. The BBC man can probably count himself lucky



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

not to have been thumped by Britain's greatest competing Olympian.

One of Rider's earlier guests was Chris Ballieu, Cambridge Blue, international oarsman and now BBC commentator, who dutifully said what he seems to say every year: "We really could be seeing a great race today, perhaps the best for many years." Sadly, the best race we saw on Saturday was a re-run of the 1980 Boat Race, provider of one of the closest finishes in Boat Race

history and the last to be commented on by the late John Snagge, Oxford held on to win by a canvas, but you would scarcely have known that by Snagge's wonderfully understated commentary. "This is an absolutely cracking race," marked the high-point of excitement.

Snagge, who died a fortnight ago, was a Boat Race institution. His current successor, Barry Davies, would like to become one and, just possibly, might. Davies, as we

know, is a *homme sérieux*, unstinting in his research, unswerving in his devotion to the appropriate literary quote (the managed Wordsworth at both the start and finish of the race). It is a style that can grate, but it is perfect for the Boat Race, a preposterously old-fashioned event that somehow still flourishes as a national institution.

Anyone can read an oarsman's height and weight off the programme's notes, but it takes the meticulously prepared Davies to tell us their histories, hobbies and engaging eccentricities. A competitor had only to mention that his father/grandfather had rowed in the race and the appropriate black and white clip would be wheeled out. It was all very impressive.

The one risk that Davies

does run, though, is that of becoming an insider. It is only a year since his son, Mark, coxed Goldie to victory and his commentary still occasionally carries the stamp of the proud father, anxious to share his new-found technical knowledge with fellow men of the river rather than explain it to those who think a stretcher is something you use to carry off injured footballers.

This rather alienating air of mutual admiration was at its height during the one-sided reserve race, but for the race proper, Davies and team were back at their best helped by some quite superb pictures of the exciting first half of the race provided by the on-board, remote control cameras. It may not have been Liverpool versus Newcastle but it had definitely been the Boat Race.

Montgomerie and Woosnam aim for rousing finish

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MARIETTA, GEORGIA

COLIN MONTGOMERIE and Ian Woosnam had little chance of catching David Duval, the leader, when the fourth round of the BellSouth Classic got under way at the Atlanta Country Club yesterday, but they were grateful for the chance to hone their games further in a competitive situation before driving to Augusta for this week's Masters. After their third rounds of 68, Montgomerie and Woosnam were on 215, one under par, nine strokes behind.

Duval's nearest challenger was Tommy Tolles, who finished second, level with Montgomerie in the Players' Championship last week, one stroke ahead of Duval. It was the second week in a row in which these two men have been separated by two strokes after three rounds, but it was Tolles, 29, who led going into the fourth round in Jacksonville.

Duval had unhappy memories of the final round in this tournament. Four years ago, when still an amateur, he led after 54 holes before falling back to finish equal thirteenth, thanks to a fourth round of 79. "I was intimidated by the position I was in," Duval recalled. "I thought I was

ready for it, but I wasn't." Tolles is one of the finds of the season. With his dark eyes and short hair, there is an intense, burning look about him. Last year, he was 116th on the money-list; last week, he jumped to third.

As Montgomerie has played only 11 rounds so far this year and Woosnam only 27, neither is what you would call "over-golfed" and further putting practice on greens very similar

Golf scores 31

to Augusta's was just what the doctor ordered.

"Going early to Augusta and practising there is all very well," Sam Torrance had said on Friday, as he waited to see whether his 36-hole total of 146 would be good enough to beat the cut, "but it's better to be playing competitive golf on a good course."

Torrance, who comfortably made the cut, scored a 74 in his third round and added a fourth round of 70 that enabled him to set off for Augusta with a smile on his face, but some of the other foreign players had hardly set the course alight. Severiano

Ballesteros, Alexander Cejka, Sandy Lyle and Costantino Rocca missed the cut. Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, and Ernie Els, of South Africa, who both live in Florida, were five behind and seven behind respectively after three rounds.

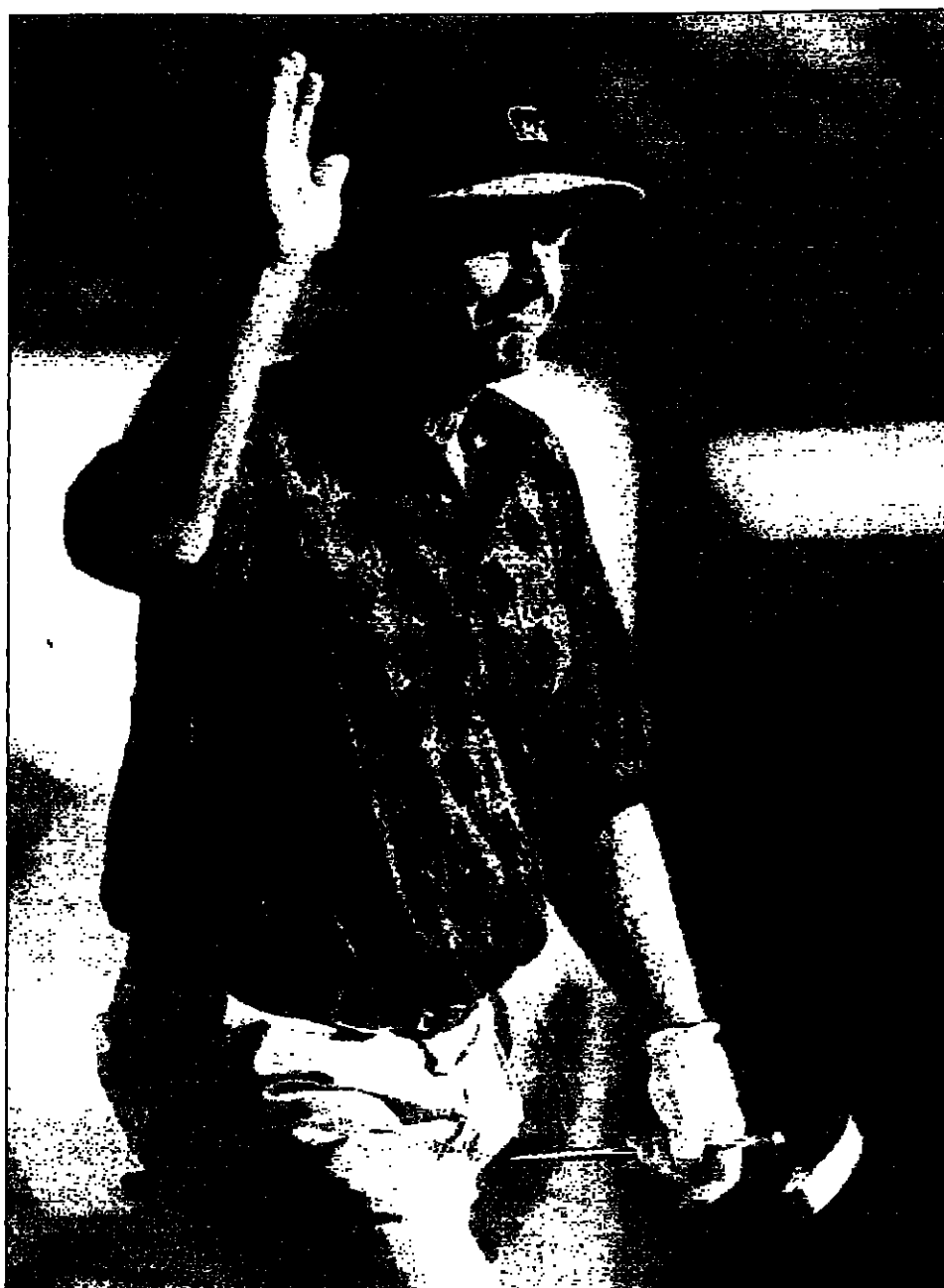
At last the sun appeared over his part of the United States, raising the temperature to something more appropriate for this time of the year. It had been in the mid-forties on Friday and Saturday. "This isn't cold. It's not bad at all," Montgomerie said on Saturday, though there was a knifing wind and rain clouds lurked ominously overhead.

Last year, Stephen Keppeler, the former Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup player, and Jim Gallagher Jr, were tied for the lead after 54 holes, before being swept aside by a strong finish by Mark Calcavecchia.

They saw each other again last week at the start of the tournament. "See you on Sunday, same time, same place," Gallagher said to the Englishman. No such luck for Keppeler this year. As Gallagher prepared for his first drive of the fourth round, Keppeler was tangling with the 9th and looking, momentarily, like the club professional he is.

His third shot from the left rough flew out of the thick grass, over the green and into more clinging grass which was ankle-high. Pitching close out of there to a fast green that sloped away from him was more than Keppeler could manage.

His first putt raced past the hole, gathering speed all the time. He missed the ten-footer coming back and, suddenly, he had taken a seven on an uphill par-four hole of 420 yards. Having begun the day at three over par, he had fallen back to eight over and walked towards the next tee without much enthusiasm and sighing wearily.



Nicklaus, whose 65 included an albatross, acknowledges applause at the 18th

Nicklaus scores two at par five

HALE IRWIN responded to Jack Nicklaus's first albatross for 31 years with a seven-under par 65 to take a one-stroke lead into the final round of The Tradition in Scottsdale, Arizona, yesterday.

Irwin, recovering from a 76 in the second round when erratic winds forced all but a handful of players over par, matched his opening round to post a three-round total of 206, ten under par. "I guess there was a little act of redemption on my part to make sure that the 76 was a fluke and the 65 on Thursday wasn't," Irwin,

the 1995 Senior PGA Tour's rookie of the year, said.

Nicklaus, the defending champion, also shot a 65. After finishing first and sixth in two previous Senior Tour events this year, he came out of the pack with a remarkable run over the closing nine holes.

Four-under at the turn, he birdied the 11th, then gobbled up Irwin's lead with two monstrous shots on the 12th hole of the Cochrise Course, one of four Nicklaus has designed at Desert Mountain.

His 340-yard drive on the short par five left him 159

yards to the flag. He pulled out an eight-iron and landed the ball on the front of the green, from where it rolled into the hole.

It was his third albatross — or double eagle as the Americans term it. The first came while he was a teenager while the second was at the Jacksonville Open in 1965.

Nicklaus two-putted from 16 feet on the last hole for his fifth birdie.

Raymond Floyd, who won this title in 1994, started the final round a shot behind J. C. Snead, who was third on 208.

Sorenstam shares lead

ANNIKA SORENSTAM, the Swede, made two costly visits to the rough but held on to shoot a one-over-par 73 and share the lead after the third round of the Twelve Bridges LPGA Classic in Lincoln, California.

Sorenstam, who dominated women's golf last year, looked ready to take her first title of the season when she shot 66 for a two-shot lead at halfway, but she was caught by Cindy Schreyer and Barb Mucha at six-under-par 207.

Sorenstam's troubles began on the par-four 7th when her

second shot hit a tree and her third found deep rough off the green. She chipped to ten feet but missed a bogey putt, dropping to six under for the tournament. Sorenstam had more trouble on the par-five 17th when her approach missed the green. She finished with four birdies, three bogeys and a double bogey.

Mucha and Schreyer each took a bogey and a double bogey. Mucha had five birdies in her round of 69 and Schreyer had an eagle and three birdies in shooting rounds of 68.

Martin retains her crown after outstanding final

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN



Jansher: sent sprawling

MICHELLE MARTIN took her fourth successive British Open squash title at the Cardiff International Arena last night, defeating Sarah Fitzgerald, her Australian compatriot, 1-0, 9-5, 9-1, 9-7 in a 46-minute match that was widely regarded one of the best in the 75-year history of the event.

Martin, the No 1 seed, had to survive a determined fightback from 3-3 to FitzGerald, the No 2 seed, in the fourth game, but then clinched the title with a penalty stroke in the fourth game.

In that counter-attack, FitzGerald produced the same level of fierce driving and tenacious retrieving that took her to a 4-1 completion of the opening game in just five minutes. At

the end of that game, Martin was making repeated forehead errors to the tin, but, in the second, she took immediate control of the court to lead 4-0.

It was obvious then that the two Australians, who have dominated the women's circuit in recent times, were about to present the Cardiff crowd with one of their great encounters. Three early penalty strokes against FitzGerald helped Martin, the defending champion, to take a 7-4 lead in the second game. A penalty stroke less well judged by William Winter, the referee, and a no-let decision at game ball ended FitzGerald's hopes.

The third game produced nine minutes of competitive rallying which Martin, rather surprisingly, won 9-1. Martin led 3-3 in the fourth and it

looked all over, but FitzGerald had other ideas, dragging herself back point by point to 5-7.

She survived five match-balls, broke her racket on the floor in frustration after missing a backhand boast that she knew she should have volleyed and finally lost the chance of a fifth game when Winter favoured the champion with a penalty stroke, the delay on which arguably deserved only a let.

Early enterprise featured in both men's semi-finals on Saturday, with Julien Bonet and Brett Martin each stealing the opening games before falling to the top seeds, Jansher Khan and Rodney Eyles, respectively.

Bonetat, the world No 18, had become the first French semi-finalist in the event with a brilliant performance against Paul Johnson in the quarter-

finals. He staggered the defending champion by finishing the first game with a disguised forehand short boast that had the normally secure Pakistani sprawling, and surprised him again with a dangerous counter-attack from 12-4 to 12-9 in a single hand of the second, before subsiding 12-15, 15-9, 15-9, 15-6 in 58 minutes.

Martin, the elder brother of the women's champion, finished his first game with a backhand cross-court nick of extraordinary power and accuracy, but was increasingly inhibited from 7-7 in the second game by a leg problem, stemming from an ankle weakened by a collision with Del Harris in the PSA Super Series final two weeks ago. Eyles reached his first British Open final in 41 minutes, 13-15, 15-12, 15-3, 15-9.

SPORT IN BRIEF

McRae struggles in Makinen's wake

COLIN McRAE will want to put the Safari Rally, which finished in Kenya yesterday, behind him as quickly as possible. The Scottish world rally champion, plagued by suspension problems with his Subaru Impreza, struggled throughout the race, including a collision with a 12-year-old spectator on Saturday, and after finishing in fourth place complained: "It's not very enjoyable fighting for world championship points in conditions like this. There's too much down to luck here."

The race was won by Tommi Makinen, of Finland, in a Mitsubishi, his second win of the series extending his world championship lead. Although Makinen had not been expected to win on his first attempt at the championship's roughest and fastest rally, he pulled away from Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden, on the last of the three days, surviving a tyre blow-out and a flash flood to beat Eriksson in his Subaru.

Tide turns for Marines

CANOEING: Mark Phillips and Richard Lewis snatched victory from Philippe Houettekiet and Bod Dewitter, of Belgium, on the final tidal stages of the Devizes to Westminster race yesterday. Leaving late on Friday afternoon and last of the 130 crews attempting the non-stop doubles race, Phillips and Lewis were placed fourth during the early stages, but, by Newbury, 35 miles into the race, had secured second place.

Houettekiet and Dewitter had established an early lead of 12 minutes, but, by Teddington, this had been cut to six and, as the crews passed under Westminster Bridge, Phillips and Lewis, of the Royal Marines, had taken the lead and established a two-minute margin. This was Phillips's third victory in succession, paddling with Lewis in 1994 and Tony Alan-Williams in 1995.

Doohan riding high

MOTORCYCLING: Michael Doohan, of Australia, right, the world 500cc champion, recovered from his disappointing start to the season by winning the Indonesian Grand Prix yesterday. Doohan, riding a Honda, finished fifth in the Malaysian Grand Prix, the opening race of the championship, last weekend, but made no mistake in Sentul, beating Alexandre Barros, of Brazil, by over 3sec.



Prean shows promise

TABLE TENNIS: Carl Prean, the former English national champion, who has had his worst season since becoming an international player, did enough to suggest that he still has a considerable future in the game despite a defeat by Wang Tao, of China, in the last-16 stage of the English Open at Kettering yesterday. Prean, who has suffered from injury and loss of form in recent months, was a convincing winner against Allan Bensen, a Danish international, on Saturday, before going out 21-12, 21-14, 21-14 to Wang, the world No 3.

Wolstenholme wins

GOLF: Gary Wolstenholme, a member of the Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup team that beat the United States last September, made a good start to the season when he won the prestigious Duncan Putter open tournament for the second time in three years at Southerndown yesterday. A 72-hole total of 291 gave Wolstenholme, a Bristol and Clifton golfer, a three-stroke victory over Matthew Ellis, the Wales international, from Wrexham, who, in turn, was three strokes in front of Mark Smith, another Welshman.

Lovatt breaks through

CYCLING: Mark Lovatt, usually cast in the role of a support rider with the powerful Optimum Performance squad, won the 84-mile third stage of the Girvan three-day race yesterday, with a finishing sprint that defeated David Williams, the 1994 national champion, and Kevin Dawson, his team-mate. It was a demanding day's racing, with three big climbs that tested the riders' strength. Williams starts the hilly 65-mile final run today as overall leader by 37sec from Lovatt.

Paulus springs surprise

TENNIS: Barbara Paulus, of Austria, right, beat Conchita Martinez, of Spain, the world No 2, and defending title-holder, 7-6, 6-4 to reach the final of the WTA Family Circle Cup at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, yesterday. Paulus was due to meet Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, of Spain — who beat Jana Novotna, of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-2 in the last four — in the final.



Real reach crisis point

FOOTBALL: Real Madrid, six times the winners of the European Cup, are facing the prospect of exclusion from European competition for only the second time in their history. Real lost 1-0 at home to struggling Sporting Gijon yesterday, leaving them in seventh place in the Spanish league, four points away from a Uefa Cup qualifying position, with just seven games remaining. Real announced yesterday that they will decline any invitation to play in the Interoto Cup this summer.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to	Weather (Spm)	Last
	L	Piste	Off/p	°C	snow
AUSTRIA	20	80	fair	slush	
Obergurgl		(Best above 2,500m, typical spring skings)	line	9	4/4
St Anton	35	240	good	line	12
		(32/33 lifts open, upper slopes good, low down slushy)			3/4
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	60	300	good	slush	sun
		(62/62 lifts open, all upper runs remain good)	line	5	1/4
Avaloraz	110	130	good	fair	lar
		(All 42 lifts open, great piste slush before midday)	line	3	1/4
Chamonix	30	240	good	varied	line
		(North facing slopes above mid-station best)	line	6	2/4
Tignes	105	190	good	heavy	fair
		(Great skiing on all but lowest runs)	line	3	3/4
Val Thorens	50	200	good	varied	fair
		(All 25 lifts open, generally good spring skings)	line	1	3/4
SWITZERLAND					
Arosa	50	50	fair	varied	slush
		(Best skiing first thing, heavy by midday)	line	2	4/4
C Montana	0	210	fair	spring	closed
		(Good skiing in morning above 2,300m, slushy pmo)	line	2	3/4
Verbier	15	170	good	varied	fair
		(Great Easter skiing, odd worn patch below 2,300m)	line	1	4/4

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

Bond holds nerve to take final step

BY PHIL YATES

NIGEL BOND, successful in only one match at his previous six snooker tournaments of 1996, continued to erase the memory of that abysmal run by beating David Harold 6-5 to reach the final of the British Open in Plymouth yesterday.

Bond, a laconic 30-year-old from Darley Dale, edged Stephen Hendry 5-4 in the last 16 by holding himself together in a tense deciding frame and it was that quality that enabled him to emerge victorious from an error-strewn contest with Harold.

Such a result seemed a million miles away when Bond, the world No 12, arrived

in the West Country devoid of confidence after first-round eliminations from the Regal Welsh Open, European Open and Thailand Open in recent weeks.

Yet, while Bond readily admits he is still too prone to unforced errors, last year's Embassy world championship runner-up was proud of the manner in which he handled the pressure for a deciding frame finish.

Bond, fortunate to win the opener on the pink after fluking the blue to a baulk pocket off three cushions, led 4-3 thanks to a 62 break in the seventh frame, but Harold moved within sight of a place in today's final against Ronnie

O'Sullivan or John Higgins by dominating the next two.

Producing his best when it mattered most, Bond easily accounted for the tenth frame before pouncing on misjudged safety from Harold in the eleventh with a decisive run of 72.

Bond has lost on his three prior appearances in the final of a world ranking event and, once again, he will be the underdog against O'Sullivan, the 1994 British Open champion, or Higgins, the titleholder.

Higgins showed his unflappable temperament on Saturday during a 5-3 quarter-final win over John Parrott. Having watched the Liverpoolian

score 226 unanswered points at the start of the match — including a 139 total clearance — Higgins was entitled to be intimidated. However, the Scot rallied with an 82 clearance in the third, took the fourth frame with an 84 break and never surrendered the momentum.

O'Sullivan's challenge was in danger of ending when he had to have a new tip applied to his cue during the mid-session interval of his quarter-final against Mark Williams. Adjusting quickly, O'Sullivan led 4-3 with a 71 clearance from 5-4 to arrears in the seventh frame before sinking a 61 break in the eighth to seal a 5-3 success.

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David Miller forecasts testing times as Oxford grapple with inferiority complex

Story of Light Blue dominance set to run and run

Oxford University oarsmen may be eagerly awaiting the autumn release of *True Blue*, the feature-film recreation of the 1987 Boat Race triumph over crew multi-ty, but Oxford rowing may be facing a worse, long-term crisis.

Cambridge's technical superiority in Saturday's 24-length victory, in the second-fastest time ever, was magnified by Goldie's crushing defeat of Isis in record time in the reserve boat contest that preceded the main event, sponsored for the tenth year by Beefeater Gin. The gap between the two "schools" is daunting.

The technical mastery shown by Cambridge in both races threatens a period of dominance as long as Oxford's 16 victories in 17 years, under the guidance of Dan Topolski, from 1976 to 1992. But Topolski, who returned as Oxford coach last year in an attempt to halt the decline, lost more than a race on Saturday; he lost a theoretical argument.

From the layman's viewpoint, it would be an only slightly harsh analogy to say that while Oxford's boat resembled a line of navvies digging a ditch, Cambridge had the unified rhythm of the first violins in a symphony orchestra. Topolski and his fellow coach, Penny Chuter, know that they will struggle to reverse this superiority.

The story of the race was painted on the faces of the respective strokes. Adam Frost, at 21 years five months the youngest of these men encountering unprecedented pressure, was a sustained picture of heroic agony. James Ball, a month older, was composed from the first, critical, half-dozen strokes and conducted a continual tactical conversation with Kevin Whyman, the Cambridge cox.

"We'd caught glimpses of Oxford in training," Ball said, "and were confident the emphasis on our [blade] finish was the faster. We were intent on being relaxed and loose, not to let rip till Barnes. If you're in top gear too early, you're nowhere further to go."

The irony within Oxford's agony was that they were possibly the stronger crew, but because of a slightly inferior catch — blade entry — and a tucked position over the oar handle on their finish, did not transfer that power from water to boat.

"If I felt the catch was going soft," Ball recalled, "I'd tell Kevin and he'd call the crew on the next few strokes. We were trying to retain a rhythm



So near and yet so far: Oxford suffer the agony of defeat as Cambridge celebrate another crushing victory in the 142nd Boat Race on The Tideway on Saturday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Key may be reserves of strength

By MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

CAMBRIDGE'S victory in 16min 58sec puts them into the record books as the equal second-fastest Boat Race crew, behind the Oxford eight that recorded 16min 45sec in 1984.

After an overlapping battle for the first five minutes, during which the umpire, Mike Sweeney, was nearly as active with his flags as the crews were with their blades, Cambridge, who had won the toss and chosen Surrey, put in a push from Harrods to Hamersmith, which eased them into a crucial lead of two thirds of a length at the bridge.

Oxford hung on with Adam Frost, their young stroke, driving them along Chiswick

Eyot so bravely that the deficit was still only just over a length at Chiswick Steps.

The "just over" was vital, though, and gave Kevin Whyman, Cambridge's cox, the steering flexibility to keep the race won, although an indication of the pressure Oxford were under came from Cambridge's four intermediate records: the mile to Barnes Bridge (10min 17sec), Hamersmith Bridge to Barnes Bridge (7min 20sec), Chiswick Steps to Barnes Bridge (3min 35sec) and Chiswick Steps to the finish (6min 29sec).

As Cambridge celebrated and Oxford slumped under Chiswick Bridge, Sweeney shouted: "Well rowed, Cambridge. Very well rowed, Oxford." This was the difference: Cambridge hit a rhythm, even

as early as the second minute, and Oxford did not.

Penny Chuter, Oxford's chief coach, who handed the reins to Dan Topolski for the last two weeks, summed it up. "You cannot perform for 17 minutes as individuals," she said. "We did not find the cohesive and relaxed rhythm which we have had."

Both Chuter and Topolski are now two years into their contract with Oxford. Robin Williams, clearly happier, has also had two years with Cambridge and his cup runneth over. Williams is a perfectionist and smiled on Saturday when he heard "you have got to be happy with that," his squad's catchphrase after outings when they think that they have gone well and he is not so sure.

His two Boat Race wins

have been more than matched by his Goldie crews, winners over Isis by 14 lengths in 1995 and 11 lengths on Saturday. Goldie set a record of 17min 28sec, only four seconds behind the Blue boat and three seconds faster than Oxford, although direct comparisons are affected by time and tide differences. Of three intermediate records which they took, one, from Chiswick Steps to the finish, now stands faster than the Boat Race record.

The success of the Cambridge system is perhaps due as much to bringing on the reserves as to the two controversial rowing bursaries offered annually. On Saturday, five of the Cambridge crew had emerged from previous Goldie combinations: no one in the Oxford line-up had been blooded in Isis.

so that the back of the boat doesn't jerk, being 'kind to the boat' as they say. Up to Hamersmith, Oxford kept putting in tens [surges of ten strokes], and I'd communicate to the cox, so that we could retaliate, letting him know their [tide] position."

The unique single-rival intensity of the Boat Race is so legendary that Cambridge revel in the present dominance as gleefully as did Oxford in recent years past. The Goldie cheers in the press tent at the finish as the Blue boat forged ahead were deafening.

This introspection tends to make the defeated side blind to realities. Some Oxford experts are reasoning that their boat failed to find training form, rather than concede the evidence of Cambridge's present technical advantage.

Chuter does concede. "The key was the continuity of five Cambridge men from previous Goldie boats," she said.

"Our performance was gutsy, but the rhythm came and went."

Sheer physical thuggery is no longer enough. "We're rowing the way contemporary international crews do," Richard Phelps, last year's winning Cambridge president, said. "This was a competition between coaches. Robin Williams has achieved the same advanced technique as New Zealand and others, always moving the boat."

"These Cambridge men are not very old, they have no managers or agents, the pressures are immense and to come out and row like that was fantastic."

Oxford now have some hard thinking to do. No oarsman deciding which university to attend is going to want the

same experience as Robert Clegg, the Oxford president, who experienced his third defeat in a row, Oxford once exploited the arrival of prominent foreign oarsmen because they were already the established winning university. Life has revolved.

Whyman survived the duel of intimidation between coxes down Fulham Reach and into Crabtree Reach at Harrods Wharf, as the stream advantage shifts from Middlesex to Surrey. Five times Todd Kristol, the diminutive American steering Oxford, was warned by the umpire, but, as Alan Inns, Cambridge's coxing advisor said: "That's the nature of the race and part of the pressure. Both coxes were doing what they had to, never mind the warnings."

Whyman held his line into the Hamersmith bend and no amount of tens from Oxford could dent the Cambridge morale thereafter.

Oxford's football finesse . 26

Magic of the Maracaña proves out of this world

Oliver Holt joins the football pilgrims at one of the greatest sporting theatres

machine at the top of a ramp, push your way through a turnstile, pick your way past pools of liquid on the concrete floor and push your way into your section and into your seat in the lower of the two tiers.

High above us to the left, the stadium almost disappeared into the sky in a vast expanse of empty terracing, but, to the right, it was packed with a living, dancing mass, moving almost as one to the drums, chanting and yelling, booing with a ferocity I have never heard before when one of the Corinthians players came over to take a corner.

The newspapers the next day said there were less than 16,000 people in the ground that once used to hold 200,000 and now has a capacity of 140,000, but it was still the best atmosphere at a game that I have experienced.

The man next to me in the hard yellow seats, who kept pressing his transistor radio to his ear and then forcing it away in frustration when Botafogo missed another chance, chattered to me constantly, uninterested in the fact that I did not speak Portuguese.

Behind me, some younger men wearing bandannas emblazoned with the name of the Botafogo centre forward, Tulio, grew apoplectic when a midfielder failed to thread the ball through to him and the attack broke down. Some of the football was breathtaking nevertheless, not a long ball in sight, full of extravagant drag-back turns, flicks and one-touch moves. At half-time, though, it was goalless.

During the interval, I bought one Coke for myself and one for the little boy who kept tugging at my sleeve and pointing at his empty cup. My hot-dog may or may not have had something to do with the next day's violent food poisoning. It was either that or the burger at Rio airport.

Midway through the second half, Dauri scored for Botafogo with a falling volley. On the vast upper tier, men with flags hurried along the terraces, ripping off their shirts, flinging themselves at friends in wild celebration. A minute later, Corinthians equalised and their small group of fans went through the same extravagant ritual.

That was how it ended. When the whistle went, the chanting stopped and the drums ceased. But if that was what it was like with 16,000 inside, the noise generated by 140,000 must be like something from another world, not just another continent.

Hightown set sights on golden opportunity

By ALIX RAMSAY

IT TOOK Tina Cullen just seven minutes to score her seventh goal of the tournament as Hightown drew 1-1 with Rotterdam in the women's hockey European Cup Winners' Cup in Holland yesterday. That one point was all Hightown needed to earn a place in the final today against Berliner, the favourites.

Before the competition began, Maggie Souyave, the coach, had warned that only the best would do in Europe — Hightown would not have a second chance to put things right. With Cullen providing the goals, they have not needed any second chances.

She certainly had enough practice on Saturday, putting away four goals in a 12-0 rout of Libertas San Saba, of Italy, Lucy Newcombe scoring three, Trish Maudsely two and Yana Williams, Jackie Crook and Jenny Worthington getting one each as the Italian side were overrun.

It was not so easy yesterday, with Hightown and Rotterdam vying for a place in the final. A point ahead of the Dutch at the start, Hightown could not afford to let Rotterdam get the upper hand. However, Rotterdam are not as fearsome as the Dutch teams of old. This season, they are battling against relegation in their domestic league while Hightown are chasing their first title.

Cullen's goal came from a penalty corner, driven low inside the post. It was enough to give them the edge, but, finding the going tougher after the break, they were caught out by a free hit deflected in by Florent Cornelis after 48 minutes. Hightown's rivals for the gold medal, Berliner, have scored just three goals in the tournament and lost to the Irish club, Pegasus, 2-1 yesterday.

Guildford hope for consolation in bronze

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

GUILDFORD'S hopes of qualifying for the men's European Cup Winner's Cup hockey final were dashed by a 2-0 defeat by Durbheim, of Germany, in The Hague yesterday. There remains, however, the chance of the bronze medal, which will be decided by today's match against Valdevez of Spain.

Needing only a draw to reach the final, Guildford lost the tactical battle in which only two shots were aimed at goal. The first, by Williams, was easily blocked by the goalkeeper, Eriewein, and a weaker effort, by Krauss for the Germans, was deflected for a long corner.

After the interval, Durbheim became more assertive and went ahead in the 49th minute when Bechmann, a member of the Olympic Games squad, scored from the rebound after Priday had saved from Moissil. Hall had two chances to redress the balance, but both shots were deflected, while Kohler shot over the top for the Germans when well placed.

After Cartmell was brought on as a substitute, Guildford pushed forward, but, in doing so, left gaps in defence. With only three minutes remaining, Krauss crowned a solo run with a goal that left no doubt about the result. A minute before the end, Matton, of Guildford, was suspended for a questionable tackle.

On Saturday, Guildford had defeated Bohemians, from the Czech Republic, 3-0, Hall scoring twice and Jennings finding the target from a short corner.

Durbheim's opponents in today's final will be the host club, HDM, for whom the Holland international defender, Wouter van Pelt, scored three times in a 3-1 victory over Valdevez.

Fox-Pitt makes most of Badminton rehearsal

By JENNY MACARTHUR

WILLIAM FOX-PITT, a team gold medal-winner at the European three-day event championships last September and a leading contender for a place in the British Olympic team, boosted his confidence ahead of Badminton next month when he won his section of the Brigstock horse trials in Northamptonshire yesterday on his home-bred Loch Alan.

Fox-Pitt also finished third in section three on Cosmopolitan, his Olympic long-listed horse. The nine-year-old gelding gained the best dressage score of the day (25), a factor Fox-Pitt attributed to recent lessons with Christopher Bartle, the former Olympic dressage rider.

Both horses are entered to make their debuts at Badminton, the main selection trial for the Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer, and Fox-Pitt was relieved to have two good preparatory outings under his belt over one of the biggest advanced courses in the country. "They both gave me a superb ride, apart from one hiccup in the water with Cosmopolitan when I lost my stirrup," Fox-Pitt said.

Ian Stark, the former European champion and a member of the British team for ten years from 1983, made a triumphant return to top-class

competition with Stanwick Ghost. They won section one after a flamboyant cross-country round. The ten-year-old gelding has had 12 months off after injuring both his tendons, but yesterday he showed no sign of rustiness.

Stark also had a clear round on his Olympic long-listed horse, Mr Mickinnon, on which he was ninth at Burghley last year, but, after collecting 16 faults in the show jumping, did not hurry him on the cross-country.

Andrew Nicholson, from New Zealand, won section three on Cartoon II. Both he

and the runner-up, Polly Clark on Poggio, had only five time faults across country, but five show-jumping faults for Clark gave Nicholson victory. He also finished seventh on Jagermeister II.

Nicholson's compatriot, Mark Todd, a double Olympic champion, had a mixed day. He was placed on both Chessman and Dark Angel, but found himself on the ground when Vambi Charboniere, the winner of Chantilly last year, was too strong going into the water.

Kristina Gifford, another Briton and the first to go, also found herself on the floor when General Jock, one of her two Olympic long-listed horses, attempted to bank the second part of fence nine. Gifford, winner of a team gold medal at both the European and world championships in the past two years, completed the course without further incident and was also clear, but slow, on Midnight Blue, on which she incurred ten show-jumping penalties.

Karen Dixon, another Olympic contender, also had a disappointing day. She retired Hot Property at fence six and was then advised by the vet not to run her two top horses, Too Smart and Get Smart, across country.



Gifford recovered after fall to complete course

Whitaker's final quest

MICHAEL WHITAKER'S last chance to qualify for the Volvo World Cup show jumping final in Geneva rests on the back of the nine-year-old, Magic Carpet. The horse, who has been rested since December's Mechelen Show, needs to leap four places in the points standings to land Whitaker a place in the final in two weeks' time, where Nick Skelton will be defending his title.

"The horse is improving

over the show. Another fourth would do the job nicely," Whitaker said before the final round of the European World Cup League in Gothenburg. Fourth place would be enough for him to join his brother, John, who qualified for the final via his third place in Paris last week.

Di Lampard needs to leap eight places in the standings on Abbervail Dream to strengthen the British presence in Geneva.



Results, page 31

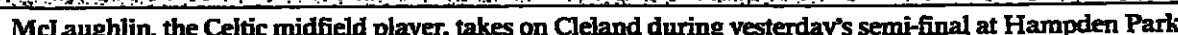
Firm resolve ensures Rangers win argument

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

His shirt may have been open-necked, but few men ever manage to be unbuttoned in an Old Firm game itself. On this occasion, the anxiety count may have been higher than ever. It was the referee, Les Mottram, who was dependable in those early stages, operating a draconian policy that saw McKinlay and

That sort of flagrant opportunity was beyond Celtic's capacity before the interval. Although they often enjoyed a territorial advantage, the routines that serve them so well in ordinary matches were proving unreliable here. McKinnlay, for example, who created four of his team's five goals against Aberdeen last week, could not gauge his crosses and tended to overshoot the target or leave Goram with an inviting catch.

At their best, Celtic have been a finely integrated team and it was significant here that their most stirring moment of the first half was, uncharacter-



Team-work was a rare feat, but there were glimpses of it in Rangers' play, particularly when Gascoigne worked his way into position, through a one-two with Durie, before shooting meekly at Marshall. When a goal did come, however, it contained the arbitrary element that exerts such influence in these fixtures.

The faint possibility that Gough, the injured Rangers

A minute from the interval, he was in an advanced position to take Laudrup's through-pass and deliver an angled drive. It may have been running wide, but Marshall dived for the ball, failed to hold it and McCoist stroked it home. It was McCoist's 26th goal in Old Firm matches.

The tone of the second half argued that the Rangers man might advance his tally still further as his team began to relax and relish the space provided by Celtic's need to be reckless.

Durie should to have scored after 50 minutes, but blasted Laudrup's pass high. Another piece of insight by the Dane put Robertson free ten minutes later, but his effort was

The second goal himself, knocking Marshall after one-two-
with McCall after 68 minutes.
Despite the late resurgence by
Celtic, it was Rangers who
possessed the unanswerable
flair.

CELTIC 3-0-2 G. Marshall - J. Mc
Narnard - Hughes - Boyd - McKinlay - S.
Dunne - J. McGovern - P. Grant - S. McClelland -
J. Johnston - J. McGee - J. O'Shea - A. Watt
McKenzie - A. Morrison

RANGERS 3-0-2 A. Gray - G. Patric - A.
Vieira - Brown - I. Chead - G. Dore
- J. Stewart - B. Eddowes - S. McCaffrey -
G. Docherty - M. Smith - G. Blair

Referee: J. Morrison

McGrath to carry on much longer, though he was excellent once again at Stamford Bridge, despite conceding a first-half penalty that Wise allowed Bosnich to save. It was a costly miss. Had Wise scored, Chelsea would have gone two goals clear. Instead, they went to pieces as Villa took a firm grip.

Spencer had put Chelsea in front after seven minutes with

productive afternoon. He looks a different player now from the one who struggled to keep down a first-team place not so long ago.

CHelsea (3-5-2): K. Hitchcock — M. Drobny, A. Dorrus, L. Chokos — S. M. Spencer, S. Gernert, D. Petruscu, R. Gullit, D. Wise (sub); G. Peacock, G. S. Minto — J. Spencer, P. Furlong.

ASTON VILLA (5-3-2): M. Bosnich — G. Charles, P. McGrath, U. Ehorio, S. Staunton (sub); T. Johnson, 24 A. Wright — M. Dwyer, A. Townsend, I. Taylor — S. Maccione, D. Yorke.

Revised: G. Poll



By Pat Gibson

"Now people might understand why I have stuck by him," Merrington said, in a reference to all those doubters — Terry Venables, the England coach, included — who have questioned the quality of one of the most mercurial talents in the game.

That match-winning penalty was the culmination of a virtuoso performance that upstaged the three Southampton old boys — Flowers, Kennan and Shearer — who left The Dell for a total of £7.5 million.

Full results and league tables **Page 24**

It would be premature to say that Le Tissier has saved Southampton's season, because their five remaining fixtures include playing Aston Villa and Newcastle United away and Manchester United at home, but at least he has given them hope.

By a Correspondent

Over the past week, the club's manager, Frank Clark, has bristled increasingly at speculation concerning strikers in whom he has allegedly expressed interest. Here, Dean Saunders; there, Dean Holdsworth; on Saturday, Bayern Munich's Frenchman, Jean-Pierre Papin. He

By MARK HODKINSON

During the pre-match warm-up, McGinlay ran into the back of Curcic and, though the Scotsman's apologies were copious, the Serbian scowled gloomily and spent much of the match rubbing the muscles at the top of his arm.

words of sympathy, too. I'm sad for Bolton. It makes their task harder. I have a lot of affection for the people there. I think they still have an outside chance, but it is going to be difficult now."

we are running out of games." Everton's first goal came via a circuitous assist from Ferguson. Much of Ferguson's allure is based upon what he *might* do as much as what he actually does. He has a charisma that makes defenders jittery and Stubbs, aware that Ferguson was drawing close, mistimed a simple header. The ball broke free and Hontjeer drove home.

Everton continued to dominate a languid game and their second goal came when Hinchcliffe played a ball over the top and Kanchelskis, so far ahead of the pack he might have been painting the perimeter fence behind the goal, ran on, rounded Ward, and effectively sealed the win.

Age Group	Percentage of Respondents
18-29	85%
30-49	80%
50-69	75%
70+	70%



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 **BODDINGTONS. THE CREAM OF MANCHESTER.** 

By a Correspondent

Over the past week, the club's manager, Frank Clark, has bristled increasingly at speculation concerning strikers in whom he has allegedly expressed interest. Here, Dean Saunders; there, Dean Holdsworth; on Saturday, Bayern Munich's Frenchman, Jean-Pierre Papin. He

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70+	70%

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Craig Russell, with his thirteenth goal of the season, put the Endsleigh Insurance League first division leaders ahead after 24 minutes against Barnsley at Oakwell on Saturday and Peter Reid's team clung on to their advantage despite having Paul Stewart sent off for elbowing Adrian Moses just before half-time.

Rob Edwards's sixth goal since his £150,000 move from Crewe Alexandra helped Huddersfield Town to a 3-1 home win over Southend and dealt a play-off blow to the visitors. Another came at St Andrew's.

Russell, injured after scoring, could be missing, allowing Michael Bridges to partner Stewart up front. Reid, who paid tribute to his side's resolve under non-stop second-half pressure, said: "We know where we are and what we've got to do. I'm

In the race to replace them, Swindon Town regained leadership of the second division and need ten points from their last eight matches to be certain of promotion after the 1-0 home defeat of Notts County. Kevin Horlock scored a minute from time.

Oxford United	1
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ers' odds of 5-1 against an Oxford double of three points and one Boat Race and long after Cambridge had edged out the Dark Blues, a 0-0 draw still looked the best that Oxford United could expect from a tough, tight game against Blackpool.

unhappy spells with West Ham United and Swindon Town, swung his foot at a clearance 30 yards out and the ball arced into the top corner past Nixon's right hand.

"I wasn't even sure it had gone in when it dropped," Beauchamp said. "I had another look back to check as I was running away to celebrate. It might be the worst

Both teams did better playing towards their own supporters after half-time. The visitors had a headed "goal" by Morrison from Mellon's

special to beat us. We deserved a draw at least on our second-half performance."

OXFORD UNITED (4-4-2): P Whithread — L Robertson, M Elliott, P Gilchrist, M Ford — M Gray (sub: M Lewis, 40min), D Smith, M Murphy (sub: C Allen, 77), J Beauchamp — P Moody, D Rush (sub: M Aldridge, 70).

BLACKPOOL (4-1-4-1): P Nixon — M Bryan, J Lydiate, D Linington, A Barlow — A Morrison — J Cuthin, M Mellon, M Bonner (sub: L Philpott, 89), A Preece — A Ellis.

Asprilla's flexible assets slow to yield profit for Keegan



Asprilla: physical gifts

Kevin Keegan stands before the world accused of the terrible crime of painting the lily, of gilding refined gold, of seeking to improve a team that was ambulating with the championship. The theory is that his purchase of Faustino Asprilla, one of the finest players in the world, was a monumental *folie de grandeur*.

The balance of the side, the theory runs, has been thrown out by the extraordinary gifts of this devastatingly unusual player — and certainly, both morally and physically, the team is unrecognisable from the one that produced the triumphant football of the first half of the season.

From 12 points clear of Manchester United to three points behind; you do not need to be Sherlock Holmes to deduce that something has gone amiss and if, because of one man, a team changes both its shape and its nature, you do not need to scan hard for clues. Newcastle soared effortlessly to

the top on two wings with the impetus for destruction coming from a sleek and sophisticated ballistic missile called Ferdinand. In the hole behind him came Beardsley, of whom more later.

But now Ferdinand plays alongside Asprilla. He is no longer cock of his own walk and it clearly rankles. He is a wholehearted team man, but he does like to be first in the line where attacking the goal is concerned. Some forwards are naturally half of a pair; Ferdinand is not. In football, as in most aspects of life, creative tension is an oxymoron. The tense partnership of Asprilla and Ferdinand is not, thus far, producing anything in the nature of a combined effort.

Meanwhile, Beardsley was playing on the right of a four-man midfield, which is rather like giving Marcel Proust a job as a librarian. Actually, Proust did have a job as a librarian, but never turned up for work. Beardsley always turns up,

Simon Barnes sees Newcastle keep their hopes alive with a 2-1 victory over Queens Park Rangers

being a large-souled footballing type, but he began with the most anonymous 45 minutes I have seen him play.

"He was compromised most by the signing of Asprilla and Bary," Keegan said. "I have asked him to sacrifice himself to accommodate them." Newcastle were anonymous all round: gushy, jumping at shadows, in desperate need of goals to settle their stomachs.

Ferdinand missed what chances were not saved. He had a grim day, relieved only by his continuous effort. Asprilla, however, was rather wonderful. He is a one-off, this man, and I have a theory about him: he is so extraordinarily — and this is not a racist comment — flexible that he makes bizarre body-shapes as he moves. Defenders read body-

shapes, use them to anticipate an opponent's next move. This a process of learning that comes quite instinctively. You begin to learn it in the playground and refine your knowledge with every game you play.

Yet Asprilla's unusual physical gifts make him almost unreadable. Add to this, breathtaking control, a sharp mind and considerable physical power and you have quite a player. An asset to any team, you would have thought, and certainly Keegan thought so. But, with less than 15 minutes to go, Newcastle were a goal down, for all the shards of magic from Asprilla. Their season was a dead man walking.

Queens Park Rangers had come to Newcastle as bold fighters against relegation, orchestrated by a

promising midfielder by the name of Wilkins. They took the lead when Hollaway charged through to wallop a deflected cross into the net.

If Newcastle salvage the championship from the wreckage of Keegan's vaulting ambition, they will look back to four minutes of perfect inspiration from the demoted, sacrificial and out-of-position Beardsley. At half-time, Keegan had told him that he was playing too deep, taking his responsibilities as a midfielder too reverently.

Thus he was on hand when Ferdinand, passing the test of character set him by a poor personal performance, robbed Impey, who was messing about on the edge of the six-yard box. He squared the ball for Beardsley's exuberant finish.

If you thought that was good, wait for the punch-line. Four minutes on, Beardsley seemed to explode — the man is a genius when the fit is on him. Bursting into the box, past two players, he produced a shot, devast-

ating and acute, a soaring flight of perfection that hit the side of the net after singeing both upright and bar. In a nanosecond, optimism returned, self-belief was back — but for how long? And anyway, it should never have departed. With Keegan's restless need for change, Newcastle are still an unstable side, an over-egged pudding of excellence.

The trial of Keegan, the great lily-painter, was adjourned on Saturday. It resumes this evening at Blackburn Rovers and final judgment is not expected for four weeks. We have, I hope, a great deal more to hear from the principal witness, Asprilla. Does he appear for the defence, or the prosecution. I wonder?

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2) S. Heslop — S. Wilson, D. Pearson, P. Abbott, J. Beardsley — P. Beardsley, R. Lee (sub: K. Colquhoun, 66min), D. Bary, D. Girdle, L. Ferdinand, F. Asprilla. QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2) J. Scriver — D. Barmby, S. Jones, M. McDonald, R. Bennett — A. Impey, R. Walters, I. Hollaway, T. Sinclair — D. Dichev (sub: M. Halsey, 76), K. Gallen. Referee: P. Darson.

Leaders stand firm under pressure to thrust City back into danger

United emerge stirred but not shaken

Manchester City 2
Manchester United 3

By PETER BALL

IT IS hard being a Manchester City supporter, never more so than in games against United. On Saturday, true to form, City twice came from behind to bring their supporters into triumphant voice, but each time it served only to shake United out of their complacency.

City have not beaten United for nearly seven years. They might have ended that record on Saturday, as they battered the FA Carling Premiership leaders for long periods in the second half, with Peter Schmeichel much the busier goalkeeper.

Schmeichel had to make three or four great saves, compared to Immel, who was unemployed in the second half. Alan Ball, the City manager, said: "It is so disappointing to have played so well but got nothing. It's the third time we've played them. They've all been great games and all been very close. One day in the near future we'll turn them over. Let's hope it's the next season, in the same league."

There lies the rub. While United's win leaves them in pole position in the Premiership race, City's defeat leaves them going to Selhurst Park to meet Wimbledon today with relegation still hanging over them.

Judged on this performance, it would be easy to say that City are too good to go down. "We're a new team coming together," Ball said. "Once we get out of this problem, we'll be miles stronger for what the players have been through this season."

Yet, in the short term, a new team coming together is not the ideal recipe for survival in the relegation dogfight, although Kavelashvili, the latest import at the most cosmopolitan club in the Premiership, made a dramatic impact in his first game.

The Georgian scored the first equaliser after United had dominated the first 35 minutes with embarrassing ease, and forced Schmeichel to a painful block with his face in the opening minute of the second half. That could have changed the game, Ball said. "It was a fantastic strike. Schmeichel didn't know anything about it."



Schmeichel spreads his wings as Kavelashvili, scorer of City's first equaliser, goes for goal at Maine Road. Photograph: Ian Stewart

That did rather less than justice to United's goalkeeper, but United's winning goal, after Rösler had come on to score City's second equaliser, suggested that it takes time for a team to gel, Nigel Clough and Nicky Summerbee's misunderstanding presenting Cantona with the ball to send in Giggs.

It still took a sensational shot from Giggs, whose left-foot drive flashed past Immel into the roof of the net from a narrow angle. It confirmed that, for all City's enthusiasm and pressure, United could step up a gear whenever they wanted to, putting City's self-sufficiency in perspective, as Clough admitted.

"They have got so much firepower — as soon as you surrender possession, they have Cantona, Giggs, Butt, Keane and Cole all breaking at you," Clough said. "They have such tremendous pace and power. We have got fighting spirit, but we gave

goals away at bad times." If Clough and Summerbee were to blame for the rash tackle on Irwin which gave United a flying start with Cantona's penalty, the central defence took the blame for the second as Cantona's perfect pass sent Cole through to beat Immel with a sureness of touch that recalled his Newcastle days.

As Kavelashvili had scored his goal moments earlier, the episode was stunning. "I was disappointed in the second goal, we defended so deep from the start of the move,"

Ball said, "but we were all over the place in the first half. In trying to do a job of work on Cantona, we left holes elsewhere and they murdered us down the flanks."

That was the reality. Only United's carelessness in the first half enabled City to turn it into a contest. United had dominated possession to such an extent that it was hard to believe it was not an exhibition match. When they needed to, they showed the confidence of champions.

"They played better than Newcastle did here," Immel said. "They are a better team — a side full of good players. They created five chances and scored three, that's the important thing."

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MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2) E. Immel — K. Symons, K. Clough, R. Bingham, N. Summerville, N. Clough, G. Kavelashvili, M. Brown, M. Frost, M. Phillips, 46min — M. Kavelashvili (sub: U. Rösler, 66), N. Quinn, M. Schmeichel — P. Newell, S. Bruce (sub: D. May, 74), G. Newell, D. Im — D. Beardsley, M. Butt, R. Lee, R. Gigg — A. Cole (sub: L. Sharp, 74), S. Cantona. Referee: M. Reed.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2) S. Ogrizovic — A. Peckering, L. Daint, U. Russell, S. Burrows, M. E. Jones, E. Taylor, P. Williams, K. Richardson, P. Ndlovu (sub: J. Salako, 66) — N. Whelan, D. Dublin.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2) D. James — J. Scates, S. Harkness (sub: M. Thomas, 64), D. Matteo — J. McAteer, S. McKennan, J. Redknapp, G. McCallister, G. Speed, I. Harte — R. Fowler, S. Collymore. Referee: P. Jones.

FIXTURES

MANCHESTER UNITED: Today: Coventry City (9), Apr 13; Southampton (9), Apr 17; Leeds United (9), Apr 27; Nottingham Forest (9), May 5; Middlesbrough (9), May 12; Blackburn Rovers (9), Apr 14; Aston Villa (9), Apr 17; Southampton (9), Apr 27; Leeds United (9), May 5; Middlesbrough (

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Defending champions refuse to try creative approach

Leicester 15
Wasps 12

By PETER BILLS

THE great debate concerning English rugby's future has tended to overlook one important aspect. Whatever the eventual financial arrangements off the field, it is ultimately the product itself that will determine the success or failure of club rugby.

In a week in which football produced a club match between Liverpool and Newcastle United of memorable skill, pace and invention, rugby union needs to reflect on how it intends to deliver similarly exalted levels of entertainment. This match, for example, was a classic illustration of how English rugby has become bogged down.

In a professional sport, grim wars of attrition like this are not what the sponsor and television companies have in mind. Coaches and players who indulge in such mind-numbing contests risk the eventual financial demise of their clubs. English football at the top level has learnt this lesson; rugby has yet to do so.

The influx of foreign talent has transformed football's FA Cup Premiership. It is becoming clear that rugby needs exposure to a similar inspiration from both players and coaches. The creative work that a leading world coach such as Bob Dwyer could do with a club like Leicester is badly needed. Considering that they are defending champions and next month's cup finalists, a club with a proud reputation and a rich history of entertainment, Leicester are failing rugby as a whole.

Brian Campell, the referee, was at his wit's end trying to apportion blame for the constant scrumage col-



Dallaglio: inspirational

lapses. These have become a blight on the English game. Leicester again relied totally on Liley's kicking to grind out another win. He landed four penalty goals, after Malone's early dropped goal, before Malone departed with an ankle injury that allowed Liley to move up to stand-off half and kick even more.

The tasty option of Underwood at full back as a strike runner into the line was employed just once and it took a marvellous corner-flag tackle from the inspirational Dallaglio to prevent a try. Otherwise, there was no semblance of creative running or back play.

Wasps were no better in that respect. Gomersall is nowhere near the talent many had forecast and, like Gregory, kicked poorly. Neither pair of halves could launch their backs, so the game stuttered along, with nobody able to develop it further. All Wasps' starting efforts up front in bravely taking on a formidable Leicester pack, albeit missing Richards, and giving them plenty to think about went to waste.

The climax to the match was revealing. Leicester's 12-3 lead with Liley's fourth penalty shrank to 12-9 through Gregory's second dropped goal and first goal made it 15-9, but Wasps stormed back and their opponents were caught offside in the 22.

With three minutes remaining and a converted try sufficient for victory, Wasps had a marvellous attacking position to go for the winning score. Astonishingly, Gregory kicked the penalty and Leicester escaped.

Rob Smith, the Wasps coach, defended the decision and added: "Besides, we hadn't really looked like scoring a try in the previous 77 minutes." Precisely.

Bath subdue Harlequins to enhance championship chances



Callard releases the ball just before he is tackled by Watson, of Harlequins, as Bath demolish their nearest rivals at the Recreation Ground. Photograph: Paulo Minoli

Stirring struggle points way ahead

Bath 41
Harlequins 15

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ON ONE point, at least, both clubs were agreed. This was the kind of ambitious approach and fluid game that, if club rugby in the northern hemisphere is to mean anything in comparison with the provinces of the south, must become the norm. In its wake will follow the commercial spin-offs to fund the professional game.

Thereafter comes the parting of the ways. Bath, first in the Courage Clubs Championship, showed a precision and playing intelligence that Harlequins — second in the table before this match at the Recreation Ground — have yet to come near. The positive side for the London club is that they have the resources and desire to do so.

Obviously, this was the game in which Bath's charge towards a sixth league title might have faltered. Instead, it drew from their players, in

the second half, the best rugby they have played all season — and that is saying something. Rather than a close-run contest, it became a record league victory over Harlequins by a margin that might have been greater but for two stunning tackles in the first half and a curious reluctance by the Bath forwards to free more ball in the dying moments.

This is what Bath players, and others from outside the club, seek to be part of. It is Bath's biggest negotiating tool, so that when such players as Ben Clarke are linked with Richmond, or Nigel Redman with Moseley, they must first pause to consider what they would leave behind: the tradition of victory, the *esprit de corps*, the forward-thinking management offered by John Hall, Brian Ashton and Ged Roddy.

"I feel extremely positive that we will keep most of our squad," Hall, the team manager, said. "There is talk about Ben and I would like him to make a decision fairly quickly." Should the England back-row forward depart, Bath are in the happy position of having Eric Peters, Scotland's No. 8, who played what one

Bath official described as his best game for the club on Saturday.

In fact, Bath were caught cold by a Harlequins side that has racked up the points in recent league games and possesses the confidence to play a wide game. The schoolboy curtain-raiser denied both teams the chance to warm up properly and, within 15

minutes, Harlequins had scored two tries but also demonstrated vividly the essential difference between themselves and Bath.

Watson, outstanding at No. 8, won possession to create the base for a glorious 70-metre attack during which Harlequins nearly managed to waste a three-to-one overlap before Callard collected a bouncing ball to score. In piecing together their first try, Bath left nothing to chance: the half-break by de Glanville, the support from Peters, Robinson, Callard and Dawe, the finish by Sleightholme — all clinical and absorbing to watch.

"We understand where we have to improve and it endorsed our thoughts about the team's performance this season," Dick Best, the Harlequins director of rugby, said. "Bath are the best, by a long way. They saw where we were good and possession dried up. They were brutally effective."

To such a degree that Harlequins scarcely won a second-half lineup, received only five penalties in the entire game and were constantly robbed of possession. From an interval lead of 15-9, they conceded 32 points. Bath having responded so well to the half-time message from Ashton, their coach, to play more direct rugby.

"We have talked all season about being at our best when we go directly at the opposition," Ashton said. "We had a long, hard look at ourselves after the cup semi-final with Gloucester, when we lost our way in terms of the balance of the game." Thus Harlequins had to endure the judicious mix of a superb midfield, strategic kicking and powerful tight loose play from the forwards which asked far too many questions.

"It was a brilliant advertisement for the game," Best acknowledged. "Going into the professional era, that's how we have to play, sides willing to run the ball but with a high skill element." Injuries removed two of Harlequins' most effective players — Allison, with a bruised back, and Challinor, with a cut knee — but their presence would have made no difference to a side denied possession.

Bath drew level through Callard's fifth penalty and crowned their high endeavour with late tries through de Glanville and Guscott, both the product of precise passing and constant support. With games against Gloucester (away), Saracens (home), Orrell (away) and Sale (home) to come, who is to stop them now?

SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Sleightholme, de Glanville, Guscott, Conversion: Callard. Dropped goals: Callard. Harlequins: Tries: Callard, Sleightholme, de Glanville, J. Guscott, A. Adams, M. Carr, A. Wood, K. Yates, G. Dawe, J. Hall, M. Jones, M. Hogg, J. Newman, A. Robinson, E. Evans. HARLEQUINS: J. Sleightholme, P. de Glanville, J. Guscott, A. Adams, M. Carr, A. Wood, K. Yates, G. Dawe, J. Hall, M. Jones, M. Hogg, J. Newman, A. Robinson, E. Evans. BATH: J. Callard, J. Sleightholme, P. de Glanville, J. Guscott, A. Adams, M. Carr, A. Wood, K. Yates, G. Dawe, J. Hall, M. Jones, M. Hogg, J. Newman, A. Robinson, E. Evans.

Northampton set high standards

Northampton 26
Newcastle 5

By ALISON KERVIN

THERE were more internationalists fighting for victory in this Courage Clubs Championship second division match than there were in any other games but one on Saturday. Only the first division top-of-the-table match between Bath and Harlequins could offer more than the 13 internationalists on duty at Franklins Gardens.

The strong cast was a bonus for the 7,500 spectators who revelled in some outstanding rugby, but the match itself had no bearing on the fate of either of the two sides. Northampton's season of annihilating every other team had already secured them the divisional championship and Newcastle had managed to push themselves off the floor of the table, even though this year, thanks to league restructuring, there is no relegation. Northampton are definitely going up; Newcastle are definitely not going down.

Nevertheless, the match was important because of its implications. Newcastle are the new boys on the block: new money, new players, new optimism and, on Saturday, after having the team together for just a couple of weeks, the chance to prove themselves against the best team that the second division can offer.

Northampton, meanwhile, are all set to reclaim their rightful place in the top flight after a relatively easy year. Facing a Newcastle side boasting almost as many internationalists as they did was a test of their prowess.

relegated during World Cup year, when players had international commitments. They feel there should have been no relegation for any first division team last year, because it tore players between club and country commitments. As such, there has been much pride in Northampton's performances this season.

They went into the lead first on Saturday and never relinquished the advantage. The first points came from Harvey Thornycroft, who took a pass from Greg Townsend, the Scotland international, to go through the middle for a try under the posts. Paul Grayson's conversion, and subsequent dropped goal, gave them a 10-0 lead at half-time.

Tony Underwood put Newcastle on the scoresheet with an unconverted try, before Grayson took the home side further ahead with two penalties and a dropped goal. Northampton finished their points haul with a converted try from Matt Allen.

Newcastle were missing Rob Andrew, who was recovering from a dislocated shoulder. His replacement, Richard Cramb, had a bad day, struggling with penalties, conversions and touch-kicks. Newcastle are continuing their improvement and are rumoured to be bidding for Garath Archer, the Bristol lock, among others, so the team will continue to develop in time for next season.

SCORERS: Northampton: Tries: Thornycroft, Allen, Conversion: Grayson (2). Dropped goal: Grayson (2). Penalties: Grayson (2). Newcastle: Try: Underwood. NORTHAMPTON: 1. Hunter, 2. Best, 3. Townsend, 4. Allen, 5. Thornycroft, 6. Grayson, 7. Dawson, 8. Volland, 9. Clarke, 10. Hyman, 11. Foster, 12. P. Grayson, 13. Bigg, 14. S. Slayter, 15. B. Slayter, 16. S. Slayter, 17. B. Slayter, 18. S. Slayter, 19. B. Slayter, 20. S. Slayter. NEWCASTLE: 1. S. Slayter, 2. Underwood, 3. Wilson, 4. G. S. Slayter, 5. Wilson, 6. G. S. Slayter, 7. Wilson, 8. G. S. Slayter, 9. Wilson, 10. G. S. Slayter, 11. Wilson, 12. G. S. Slayter, 13. Wilson, 14. G. S. Slayter, 15. Wilson, 16. G. S. Slayter, 17. Wilson, 18. G. S. Slayter, 19. Wilson, 20. G. S. Slayter. Reference: S. Slayter (Liverpool).

Neath move into stride for run-in to title

NEATH, the Heineken League leaders, took another stride towards the championship with a 50-24 rout of relegation-threatened Aberystwyth on Saturday. They boosted their points tally in the past three games to 210, coming from behind to thrash opponents who are second from the bottom and claim a maximum five points thanks to their eighty-try spree.

The home side battled into a 14-7 half-time lead, but were swamped as Neath got into their stride, Chris Scott and Justin Bunnell leading the way with two tries each. Aberystwyth snatched a bonus point with four tries, but are looking certain for relegation — their closest rivals for relegation — Treorchy — secured a stunning 36-30 victory at Newport after trailing 25-5 into the second half.

Pontypridd leapfrogged Llanelli into second place with a 54-22 win over Swansea, with Wales stand-off half, Neil Jenkins, topping 200 points for the season. Jonah Lomu, the New Zealand line, scored two tries in typically rumbustious style to help Auckland Blues overcome Northern Transvaal 30-26 in a top-of-the-table Super 12 match yesterday. Auckland are four points ahead of Queensland in the table.

England's schoolboys maintained their unbeaten record in the home international series by defeating France 14-11 in Vannes on Saturday. Should they win their final game against Ireland at Hull Ionians on Wednesday, they are likely to share the season's honours with Wales, who held them to a 7-7 draw last month.

Rugby's Easter parade deserves dignified end

To walk to Cardiff Arms Park on Saturday was to do so with a deepening sense of impending loss. The Barbarians' presence over Easter in Wales is likely to come to an end and this 49-43 defeat against Cardiff could be the last match of its kind. The bright light their particular brand of rugby cast on an admiring public has been growing dimmer. The public still holds them in warm affection, but seemingly the Welsh clubs no longer do.

The Easter tour that began in 1901 was shortened when the first of their traditional fixtures, Penarth, disappeared from the list. Newport was the second to go, only for the match to be rearranged for the autumn. The Welsh clubs were feeling the strain of fielding strong enough teams. Two seasons ago, Swansea went — and now Cardiff, a fixture that dates back to 1891, is in serious jeopardy.

Having secured players from France, Italy and Argentina to make for a colourful squad, the Barbarians woke up on Saturday morning to find that their hosts were, apart from three players, fielding a second-string side. Cardiff have a Heineken League fixture today against Aberavon, a commitment that is unlikely to change. This, the Barbarians committee felt, was hardly a compliment.

Cardiff may reply by saying that the Barbarians can hardly beat and that the scoreboard tells its own story. What would the margin have been, they would argue, had Cardiff's best taken the field? To which the answer might be, as Geoffrey Windsor-Lewis, the Barbarians secretary, said, that a team responds accordingly to the quality of the opposition, to lift the level of the game in a way they might

Gerald Davies on
the sad decline
of a once-great
seasonal fixture

not when confronted with a lesser team.

There was a goodish crowd, but there were others who might have looked on to see that, since their own club had diminished the value of the match, it was not worth their bother either.

This is a slippery route. Swansea had been down this path and, with the Barbarians themselves searching around for players, turned the fixture into one of total insignificance. Rather than see this Easter Saturday match dwindle and find their own reputation decline, far better for the Barbarians to terminate the fixture. For the sake of their own sense of place in the rugby world and the affection in which they are held, it is better they make a dignified withdrawal.

If Wales cannot find a place for them, then the Barbarians should find the welcome of friends elsewhere. "We are getting invitations from all

parts of the world," Windsor-Lewis said. "Japan is already on the itinerary. Italy is in the pipeline. Perhaps that is the way for the future of the club."

Barbarians' rugby has always been good for the game. Time does not stand still, however much we sometimes wish that it did, and, in moving towards a professional destination, rugby must jettison much that is traditionally cherished. We should grieve the passing of this fixture, but sentiment should not play a part in the decision that the Barbarians and Cardiff have to make. Rather than wait for the new structure of competition to impose its inexorable will, they should part ways with dignity.

This match was a mixture of good and bad. There were marvellous moments of running and sleight of hand. Moments of excruciating error, too. For Cardiff, Rayer and Walker had chances to run in the backs, as did Booth and Ringer among the forwards. For the Barbarians, Pichot, at scrum-half, was ubiquitous, as was Morrison and his fellow back-row men.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Tries: Walker (2), Rayer, Colclough, C. John, W. Jones, Conversion: C. John (7). Barbarians: Tries: Morrison (2), S. Slayter, G. Slayter, Conversion: G. Slayter (2). Cardiff: Tries: Walker (2), Rayer, Colclough, C. John, W. Jones, Conversion: C. John (7). Barbarians: Tries: Morrison (2), S. Slayter, G. Slayter, Conversion: G. Slayter (2).

SCORERS: Gloucester: Dropped goal: Kibbey. Penalties: Gomersall (2). Bristol: Tries: G. Slayter, P. Hogg, M. Kibbey, C. Slayter, A. Wood, P. Gomersall, A. Deacon, G. Slayter, R. Foster, D. Slayter, A. Slayter, C. Slayter, Conversion: G. Slayter (2). Gloucester: Tries: Gomersall (2), S. Slayter, G. Slayter, Conversion: G. Slayter (2). Bristol: Tries: G. Slayter, P. Hogg, M. Kibbey, C. Slayter, A. Wood, P. Gomersall, A. Deacon, G. Slayter, R. Foster, D. Slayter, A. Slayter, C. Slayter, Conversion: G. Slayter (2).

Gloucester continue fight for safety in phoney war

Gloucester 18
Bristol 14

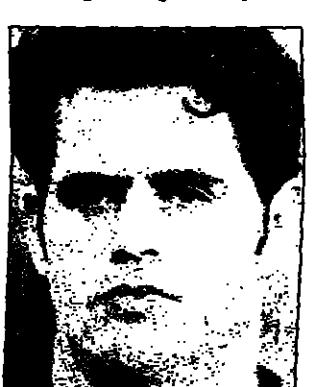
By NICOLAS ANDREWS

A RUGBY Football Union (RFU) press conference tomorrow may shed some light on the make-up of the Courage Clubs Championship first division next season, but do not count on it. More likely is that the RFU will declare its intention to preside over a ten-team top flight. The leading clubs, who prefer 12, will object, flex their collective muscle and the present farcical uncertainty will continue awhile yet. Gloucester will then entertain Bath on Wednesday night still not knowing whether they are fighting for their first-division lives.

Playing Bath is not much fun at the moment, as Harlequins, Gloucester's hosts this Saturday, will now attest. Nor does Richard Hill, the director of coaching at Kingsholm, enjoy playing the team that has just met the league leaders and champions-elect. The fixture list has decreed that that should be the lot of Gloucester this season — to meet Bath's most recent victims in their following game.

So Bristol on Saturday, like Wasps the week before them, took on Hill's team doubly determined to get the previous drubbing out of their system. "When Bath have thumped someone, we have to play them the week after," Hill said. "It has not been easy following them."

In Hill's words, therefore, Bristol "were up for it" and, indeed, they scored the game's only try after 13 minutes, when Fenwick caught and unwisely tried to unload a high ball outside his 22. Bristol retrieved possession and Bracken speedily found Maggs, who passed to Thomas, who fed Gavin Sharp and the wing managed to squeeze



Bracken: created try

over in the corner despite a tackle from Peters.

Bristol and Gloucester have been playing each other since 1892. The programme said this was one of the highlights of the season, that these games are always special. Sky Television's programme planners presumably hoped so too. They were wrong.

"The aim of today was to win," Hill said. "If we had lost today, that would have been it, but I have to say I didn't think the game would be that poor."

Brian Hanlon, the Bristol coach for a few more weeks, blamed indiscipline and unforced errors for the sorry spectacle. "Gloucester kicked their goals and that is what they won by," he said. "I didn't think they looked like scoring a try."

Mark Mapletto suffered badly in the Pilkington Cup semi-final defeat by Bath on his return from injury last month. He came off the bench to replace Fenwick on Saturday with 30 minutes left, after the Gloucester full back had damaged his ankle, and Mapletto it was who kicked two testing penalties in the last ten minutes to take Gloucester from 14-12 down to an 18-14 victory. "It's good to see he has got his nerve back," Hill said.

So the fight to avoid relegation, if it is more than a phoney war, goes on. Bristol and Saracens are now just two points ahead of Gloucester and the match between Gloucester and Saracens at Kingsholm in three weeks' time looks increasingly like a decider. Or not.

"It would be nice to know one way or the other," Hill said. Hanlon added: "We have got to assume the worst is going to happen and prepare accordingly, but there is no justification for this uncertainty at all."

SCORERS: Gloucester: Dropped goal: Kibbey. Penalties: Gomersall (2). Bristol: Tries: G. Slayter, P. Hogg, M. Kibbey, C. Slayter, A. Wood, P. Gomersall, A. Deacon, G. Slayter, R. Foster, D. Slayter, A. Slayter, C. Slayter, Conversion: G. Slayter (2). Gloucester: Tries: Gomersall (2), S. Slayter, G. Slayter, Conversion: G. Slayter (2). Bristol: Tries: G. Slayter, P. Hogg, M. Kibbey, C. Slayter, A. Wood, P. Gomersall, A. Deacon, G. Slayter, R. Foster, D. Slayter, A. Slayter, C. Slayter, Conversion: G. Slayter (2).



Walker: two tries

Chance for St Helens to build on fine start

By Christopher Irvine

UNDER Shaun McRae, St Helens have achieved in three months what had been beyond them for years, first reaching the rugby league Challenge Cup final, on April 27, and then breaking a long sequence of defeats by Wigan last Friday.

A habit St Helens have of gaining a fine win, then making a fine mess of things in their next match, is one that their Australian coach is anxious to see end today in the noon encounter at Leeds.

It is possible that St Helens could have an early outright lead in the Stanes Super League by tonight. Only two other sides are unbeaten, but Warrington face the inevitable Wigan backlash at Central Park and London Broncos will travel with some trepidation to Bradford Bulls, the other Wembley finalists.

The team is largely the one

Super League fixtures 31

he inherited from his predecessor, but where the unfortunate Eric Hughes got it wrong, McRae, so far, has got things quickly right, getting St Helens back to Wembley after five years and beating Wigan for the first time since the 1993 Premiership final.

McRae is blessed with some excellent talent at Knowsley Road. However, orchestration is required to get good soloists to make music together and McRae's direction has brought far greater harmony in areas of defence where St Helens were vulnerable. In six matches, he has yet to lose.

The one player McRae has brought in, Derek McVey, a second-row forward from Sydney Tigers, had an enormous bearing on the 41-26 defeat of Wigan. A repeat of his rampaging running and off-loading of the ball under pressure can only do further damage to a Leeds side showing obvious strains.

Leeds and Warrington Town are the only sides to have lost their two opening games. Castleford Tigers denied Leeds with a last-minute try on Friday and there had been booing at Headingley

during the opening defeat by Warrington. A third would bring added pressures for Dean Bell, the Leeds coach.

A back scar on Martin Offiah revealed a cracked vertebra, which will keep the Wigan wing out for at least a fortnight. Rob Smyth takes his place for the visit of Warrington and their coach, John Dorahy, whose troubled season at Wigan ended in dismissal four days after the side won the 1994 Challenge Cup.

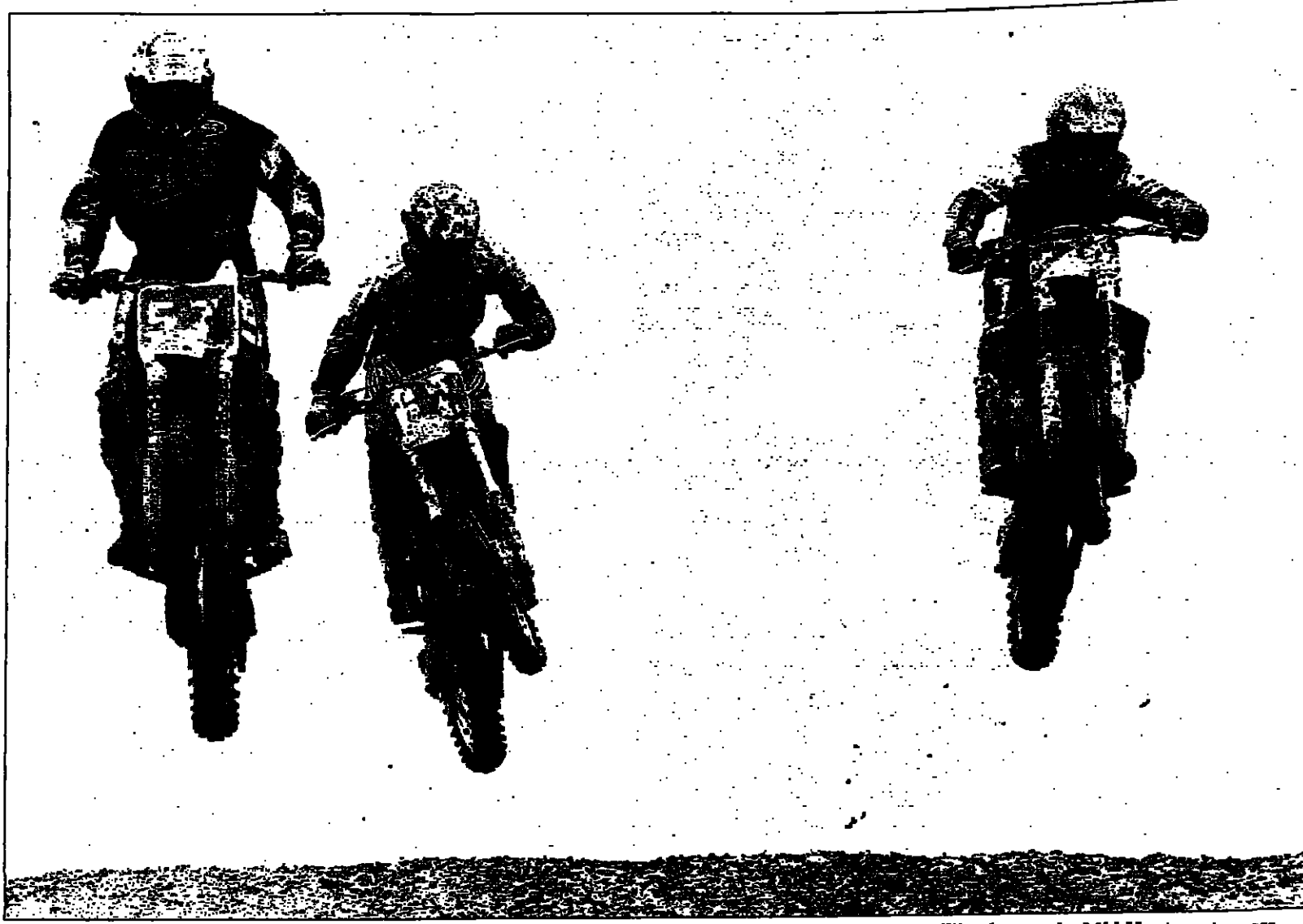
Dorahy is one half of a "dream team" at Warrington with Alex Murphy, the team manager, who also knows what it is like to be dismissed by Wigan. Tonight brings an early opportunity to fulfil Murphy's words when they were appointed in January: "I promise you one thing," he said then, "John Dorahy will come back to haunt Wigan."

Iestyn Harris, Paul Sculthorpe and Lee Penny are youngsters with a tremendous future. What Warrington lack are experienced craftsmen to blend in with youthful potential. In their last four meetings, Wigan have won with plenty to spare and, after their problems of the last week, Wigan will want to produce a convincing performance.

Tony Currie, the London coach, was highly critical of his side, in spite of the win against Paris Saint-Germain on Thursday. A more pragmatic approach will be required to gain a first win at Bradford, which would represent a start to the Broncos' season beyond all expectations.

Paris attracted nearly 18,000 to the Charley Stadium for the opening-day defeat of Sheffield Eagles, which brought a media awakening in France. Oldham Bears are the visitors today and the emphasis will be on the home team to keep up the good work in the name of rugby league by achieving a second win.

Workington sank without trace at home to St Helens eight days ago, gave a far better account of themselves before losing 45-30 at Warrington and now need to repeat their win of last season against Sheffield at Derwent Park.



High-flying Lee Jones, left, leads Matthew Dent and Mark Woodbridge over the humps and bumps in a thrilling heat at the Mid-Hants moto-cross championships at Thruxton yesterday, where many of the leading riders in the United Kingdom were competing. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Clifton court success against the odds

By Stuart Jones

IN A different context, the black, pock-marked walls might have been used to illustrate a day's shelling in a war zone. Apart from the presence of numerous scuff marks, as though hails of bullets had ricocheted off the surface, three gaping holes suggested heavier artillery had been at work.

Clifton College's rackets court, one of only 37 in the world, is plainly in need of refurbishment. The damage has been inflicted during more than a century of activity in an arena that is said to be used more often than any other except at Queen's, the headquarters of the sport.

Converted into a basketball court by the Americans during the war (the doorway was filled in and another was hacked out of the side wall), it is to be repaired during the summer at a cost of £4,000. Clifton are also in the process of re-establishing their prowess in rackets.

None of their individuals

has claimed the Foster Cup, the national schools championship, since 1990. The winner then was Matthew Windows, now a county cricketer with Gloucestershire. One of his former rivals, Toby Sawrey-Cookson, has since changed allegiances.

A semi-finalist in the Foster Cup, he was a contemporary of Windows at Wellington and is the professional in charge of guiding Clifton's resurgence.

"The standard among the seniors is weak at the moment," he conceded, "but there are some promising juniors coming through."

In view of the current comparatively low status, he was initially bemused by the visit of an outsider. Sawrey-Cookson, 23, was too bashful to disclose that he is the British under-24 doubles champion, a title he won with Jonathan Larkin in January, and is rated unofficially in singles as the ninth-best player.

The competitive field is restricted. He competes in no more than half-a-dozen tournaments a year and the re-



Schools results 31

wards are equally limited. He estimates that the overall prize-money he has earned in three years as a professional amounts to a mere £1,300.

He pointed out that the winner of the British Open, one of the three titles that have to be won by anyone with pretensions to challenging the world champion, receives some £800. It is not as if the equipment is cheap either. Even a moderate racket can cost as much as £40.

The teenage experience of

the chairman of the Boosters, the club which uses the court at Clifton during the evenings, exemplifies the potential expense. In one term at Harrow, Claude Rome broke 37 rackets and ran up a bill that exceeded the school fees.

Eton, represented by all four semi-finalists in the last Foster Cup, remain the dominant force. With two courts and 1,100 pupils, they have a distinct numerical advantage. Girls, none of whom play rackets, form almost half of Clifton's 650 students.

More popular pastimes are rugby (Kevin Bowring was the director of sport until he left to take up his post as the Wales coach) and cricket. A plaque commemorates the world record achieved by "A.E.J. Collins who scored 629 runs on this ground" in a junior house match in 1899.

Nevertheless, Sawrey-Cookson believes that Clifton could in a couple of years challenge the likes of Eton, Harrow and Tonbridge. He is depending on the continuing development of three young-

sters — Nathan Thevathasan, George Buck and Daniel Kane. Thevathasan had never played the game before he arrived from Sri Lanka. Nor had Buck, whose father was a headmaster in Kenya. By the time they are seniors, their tutor expects to be reaching his own peak. He lost in the first round of the British Open last month, but to the eventual champion, James Male, who is also world champion.

Sawrey-Cookson, who admits that his 6ft 2in frame may be larger than the ideal for rackets, competed last week with Larkin in the British Open doubles championship at Queen's. His regular partner will also assist him to prepare for his debut in the US Open later this month.

They will practise in the crumbling court, receiving the customary less whenever the ball veers off the edges of the holes. Clifton's students will shortly be seeking perfection there as well, and not only in their physical activities. The room also houses the GCSE examinations.

Ranatunga ready to hand over captaincy to de Silva

By Our Sports Staff

SRI Lanka's cricket captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, 32, who led his side to victory over Australia in the World Cup final last month, is to step down. In a newspaper interview yesterday, Ranatunga said it was time he handed over the reins.

"I think I've done my bit, having been captain since 1989," Ranatunga said. The left-handed batsman, who first represented his country as an 18-year-old schoolboy, nominated his vice-captain, Aravinda de Silva, as his successor. "With his experience and capabilities, he will handle the team very well," Ranatunga said.

His announcement came on the day that Sri Lanka lost to Pakistan by 43 runs in the final of the Singer Cup in Singapore, but not before their swashbuckling opening batsman, Sanath Jayasuriya, had established another one-day batting record. He struck a half-century from only 17 balls — one less than the previous record held by the Simon O'Donnell, of Australia, — as Sri Lanka chased a victory target of 216.

There were five sixes and eight fours in Jayasuriya's innings of 76 from 28 deliveries, but, when he was out, Sri Lanka collapsed on a pitch that gave the off spinner, Saqlain, all the help he needed to turn the game.

In Kingstown, St Vincent, Brian Lara and Phil Simmons scored centuries as West Indies beat New Zealand by seven wickets in the deciding one-day international to take the series by three matches to two. Lara struck 104 and Simmons 103 not out, adding 186 in a third-wicket partnership that began with West Indies struggling at 31 for two in reply to New Zealand's 241 for eight.

It was Lara's ninth one-day century and his second of the series. He hit a six and ten fours from the 103 balls he received.

West Indies needed 25 runs off the remaining nine overs after Lara's dismissal and Simmons saw them home. His fifth one-day hundred included two sixes and ten fours off 125 balls. He finished the match by pulling Cairns to the fine-line boundary off the third delivery of the penultimate over.

Scoreboards, page 31

Woking maintain winning habit to stay in hunt for title

Woking 3

Macclesfield Town 2

By Walter Gammie

WHEN confirmation of Stevenage Borough's defeat at Morecambe reached the home dressing-room at Kingfield on Saturday, added edge was given to the euphoria generated by a thrilling Woking victory. Now just a point behind the leaders, having played a match more, Woking travel to Stevenage today with the Vauxhall Conference title tantalisingly within reach.

Six successive wins make a persuasive case for their chances. The spirit with which, 2-1 behind at half-time and down to ten men with Hunter, their scorer, sent off, they rallied to seize the spoils an even more forceful one.

Four minutes into the second half, Woking withdrew Baron from their five-man defence and sent on Adams, a forward. It was a statement of intent to which the players responded magnificently. Their attacking balance restored with a flat back four, Woking flowed forward, re-kindled their passing game and played a previously rampant Macclesfield off the pitch.

Adams did his bit with two

deceptive left-foot strikes. In the 55th minute, he timed his stretch at the far post to steer in a cross by Steele, then, in the 64th minute, he pulled away from the defence as Walker weaved to the byline and turned away a perfect pass with aplomb.

Walker, the former Chelsea and Sunderland wing, might, at 38, have seen it all before,

Poole Town survived the ignominy of entering the Guinness Book of Records as the worst team in football history when they drew 0-0 with Bashley in the Beazer Homes League on Saturday. Poole had previously suffered 39 successive defeats, equalling the record set by Stockport United in 1977.

but he was clearly pleased with his piece of sorcery. "When the adrenalin starts flowing, everyone wants to take on extra responsibility — and no one missed out in that respect," he said. "I felt I just wanted to try something extra. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't." Most of 4,383 crowd, the best of the season in the Conference, roared their approval.

For Sammy McLroy, the

Macclesfield manager, Hunter's sending off had proved a predictable turning point. "You see it so often," he said. "In the second half, we simply didn't match them for commitment."

His dismay was understandable. Macclesfield, having fallen behind, played smooth, controlled football and twice pulled apart Woking's defence for Sorvel and then Coates to deliver crosses for Power to score.

They were ahead and looking comfortable when Hunter was ordered off in the 32nd minute. Having made his mark with a fine goal, hooking the ball over his shoulder and driving the ball across Price in Macclesfield's goal, Hunter needlessly tripped Hemmings to add a second yellow card to one he had picked up for a foul in the second minute.

At the finish, the match sponsor declined to pick out a man of the match, nominating the entire Woking team. "I've never seen that before," Walker said, "but who would want to argue?"

WOKING (4-3-1-2): L. Batty — J. Crampton, M. Tucker, K. Brown, T. Barron (sub. D. Adams, 49min), S. Grotter (sub. D. Timothy, 20), C. Fielder, A. Ellis — S. Steele — J. Hunter, C. Walker. MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-3): R. Price — D. Trison, W. Howarth, S. Payne, M. Gardner — S. Wood (sub. D. Lyons, 84), N. Sorvel, K. Hulme, A. Hemmings — M. Coates, P. Power. Referee: R. Styles.

Bright start brings reward for Oxford

Oxford University 2

Cambridge University 1

By David Miller

THE attendance for the University football match at Craven Cottage — 1,260 — was more than half that for Cambridge United's home match in the Endleigh Insurance League third division. Not bad at all (writes David Miller). However, it is eight years since Cambridge University's last victory and Oxford's fourth win in this spell was the reward of dominance in the first hour.

It was difficult to detect any serious coaching influence on either team, unless it was the respective tactical formations: Oxford's 4-5-1, Cambridge's 1-1-5-2, both of them surprisingly negative for an encounter that is neither league nor Cup, but a one-off and supposedly an occasion for some style.

Oxford's lone attacker, Perera, failed to achieve his professed impersonation of Faustino Asprilla and it was the mobility and control of Smith, Bissell, Loosemore and the two Hanssens in midfield that gave Oxford the edge.

Cambridge played with a sweeper, White, behind a

marker, Budd, behind a mid-field sweeper, Thompson, the captain. Thompson's inaccurate distribution did not make the most of lively performances in front of him by Pett and Evans in midfield and Millar up front.

Loosemore headed Oxford in front after a quarter of an hour from a corner by Jens-Peter Hanssen, who had earlier hit the angle of the posts. After Pett and Hayward had missed scrambled chances for Cambridge, Oxford pressed for the remainder of the first half and went two up soon after the hour when Smith rounded Park and shot home from an acute angle. Millar scored ten minutes from the end from a penalty for a handling offence and thereafter Cambridge wasted openings for a draw with ragged shooting.

Only half a dozen players showed natural ability and Evans, who has professional experience with Luton, was named man of the match. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: J. Park (S. Catterall), S. Bell (Gerrard), R. Henderson (Chris Hall), M. Budd (Gibson), A. Thompson (S. Catterall's captain), I. White (Timmy Hall), M. Pett (Crown), K. Hayward (Fitzwilliam), M. Evans (Hornorton), R. Miller (S. John), R. Mearns (Crown). OXFORD UNIVERSITY: J. Newby (S. Catterall), J. Parker (S. John), A. Budgey (Chris), R. Warrington (S. Edmund Hall, captain), P. Warrman (New College), D. Loosemore (Keeble), M. Smith (Oriel), A. Bissell (New College), J. Hanssen (S. Antony), M. Goff (Queens), H. Hanssen (Corpus Christi).

Lowly Royals stay defiant

By Nicholas Harling

THE near-capacity crowds that have watched the Hemel Hempstead Royals basketball team all season — most recently on Saturday for the visit of the deposed champions, Sheffield Sharks — provide a powerful argument as to why the Budweiser League's bottom club should not be relegated. Less persuasive is the team itself, whose meagre tally of six wins in 36 games means that the club will have to sweat over the next month on its status next season.

Hemel have finished bottom twice in the past four seasons, yet the club's owner, Vince MacCauley-Razaq, is adamant: "I would like to feel that we have made some progress

since we took the club over," he said after the Royals had slumped to a 93-77 defeat by the Sharks. "I am 100 per cent confident of being in the league next season."

Like most owners, Razaq welcomes the new ruling that will permit clubs to field five foreign players from next season. "It's the best thing that could ever have happened to this league," he said. "We want to encourage English players as much as we can, but they shouldn't be in a comfort zone of being guaranteed places just because they are English."

Just to endorse his point, two Americans had earlier led the scoring. Jason Siemon

collected 23 points for the Royals, who trailed throughout chiefly because the Sharks had, in his compatriot, Todd Cauthorn, the scorer of 25 points, the game's outstanding performer. Roger Huggins kept the English flag flying with his contribution of 24 points for the Sharks. That was two less than Peter Scantlebury — who he recently succeeded as England captain — accumulated for Thames Valley Tigers in their 108-86 home loss to the champions, London Towers.

Mark Robinson's 40 for Manchester Giants in their 109-97 win over Chester Jets was the best individual tally of the weekend.

Furlan clinches Italian victory

RENZO FURLAN'S victory over Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, in Rome yesterday gave Italy a place in the Davis Cup semi-finals for the first time in 16 years. Cheered on by 6,000 supporters in the Foro Italico, Furlan won 3-6, 6-0, 7-6, 6-2 in 2hr 42min to establish a winning 3-1 margin.

"We have won a great match," Adriano Panatta, the Italians' captain, said before he was hoisted on to the

shoulders of jubilant team members. "Now let's move on to the semi-finals against France. It's a very open competition." France, who had already qualified at Germany's expense when Guy Forget and Arnaud Boetsch beat Boris Becker and Marc Goellner in Saturday's doubles, completed a 5-0 whitewash in Limoges when Forget and Cedric Pioline scored singles victories over David Prinosil and

Hendrick Dreckman. They are in the semi-finals for the first time since 1991. The Germans were without Michael Stich while Becker played only in the doubles because of a respiratory infection.

Sweden completed a 5-0 rout of India on grass in Calcutta and will now meet the Czech Republic, who gained a 3-2 win over the United States in Prague when Petr Korda beat MaliVai Washington 7-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Tickets from £7.50.
So much for hitting
the Scottish where it hurts most.

First game April 14th
London Monarchs v Scottish Claymores

AMERICAN FOOTBALL. ENGLISH TURF.
CALL 0500 35 35 35 FOR TICKETS.

What could the Scottish possibly hate more than losing money? Losing their first game of the season to the English. Venue: White Hart Lane, Tottenham • Home games: April 14, May 6, May 27, June 16 • Pre-game Power Party at 12.00pm • Kick-off at 3.00pm • Courtesy shuttle bus with return service from Seven Sisters tube • Half-price admission for children 12 and under • Season tickets: 5 for the price of 4 • Ticket orders are subject to agency booking fees.



LONDON
MONARCHS



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12	(14)	000	PARLIAMENT PACE 167 (D.F.) 4 Mistic; 13 others	Other 0
13	(14)	040	TOO HASTY TRY (D.F.) 1 Fantasy; 3 S-13	Other 0
14	(12)	021	CRYSTAL FALLS (D.F.) 2 J.G.N.W. 3-13 S-13	Other 0
15	(13)	010	BIRCHWOOD SUN 9 (D.F.) 2 S-13	Other 0
16	(17)	040	RYMER'S RANGER 167 (S) 2 E. Aton; 4 A-1, 1 C-2	Other 0
17	(14)	000	MASTER CHASER 176 (S) 2 Mistic; 1 Henderson 4	Other 0
18	(17)	020	FLYWAY BLUES 206 Mistic 14; 1 Fantasy; 4-13 S-13	Other 0
19	(12)	020	ROCKY HAT 73 (N.D.O.) 2 Fantasy; 5-2, 2... T W	Other 0
20	(14)	010	1-1 S-13; 1-1 High Plain, Kester Chapter, 14-13 S-13	Other 0
21	(12)	010	1-1 S-13; 1-1 High Plain, Kester Chapter, 14-13 S-13	Other 0

Dunwoody to make late call-up count

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

WITH the British raiding party weakened by the absence of Sun Bay and Tartan Tyrant — because of the last for Lord Singapore to capture the Jameson Irish National at Fairhouse today.

Fergie Sutherland, who relies on Co Co Callant today, sent Imperial Callant from Co Cork to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the same county can complete a memorable double with the Jonjo Walsh-trained chaser.

This progressive performer brings solid credentials with him for the £62,700 first prize, having won on all three of his previous visits to the course. He will also have the invaluable assistance of Richard Dunwoody in the saddle.

Dunwoody was a late booking for the ride after Lord Singapore's intended partner, Jason Tiley, suffered rib injuries in the Grand National at Aintree and Walsh is unconcerned about any overweight the champion jockey may carry.

Walsh said: "Richard says he will do 10st 3lb, so we'll be carrying 3lb extra, but Richard's worth twice as much. This will be the first time the horse has carried a light weight in a big race. Because he is not very big, it should be an advantage."

Walsh added: "He seems to like Fairhouse too, having won his maiden hurdle, a good handicap hurdle and a novice chase there."

Lord Singapore warmed up for today's race with an impressive five-length defeat of Bob Devani in a chase over two miles, five furlongs at Leopardstown last month, a commendable effort as he is essentially a stayer.



Dunwoody: late booking

Christies Foxhunter Chase at Cheltenham last month and has replaced Sun Bay as favourite in ante-post betting.

He could be well treated at the weights and has the assistance of Imperial Callant's jockey, Conor O'Dwyer, who takes over from Dido Harding.

Danoli's rider, Tom Treacy, partners Norman Conqueror, who will be the Queen Mother's first runner in Ireland for a quarter of a century. His mount has won military races at Sandown, but faces a much stiffer task here.

GOING: GOOD CHANNEL 4/515

3.55 JAMESON IRISH NATIONAL CHASE

(Handicap; £62,700; 3m 5f; 22 runners)

1-10P FLASHING STEEL (C) (C) Houghton 11-12-4 N O'Brien
2-10P JODAN (M) (J) Parnell 11-11-11 M Dwyer
3-10P COYOTE (M) (C) O'Brien 11-11-11 P Cogan
4-10P RING OF THE GABLES (M) (C) O'Brien 11-11-11 P Cogan
5-10P SECOND SCHEDULE (M) (C) O'Brien 11-11-11 P Cogan
6-10P TARTAN TYRANT (M) (C) O'Brien 11-11-11 P Cogan
7-10P SUNNY BAY (M) (C) O'Brien 11-11-11 P Cogan
8-10P ANAHEIM (M) (C) O'Brien 11-11-11 P Cogan
9-10P FUSILLÉ (M) (C) O'Brien 11-11-11 P Cogan
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21-10P CALDERA (M) (C) O'Brien 11-11-11 P Cogan
22-10P COYOTE (M) (C) O'Brien 11-11-11 P Cogan

Long handicaps: Another Chance 5-15; Double Brandy 5-15; Norman Conqueror 5-15; The Day Before 5-15; Flashing Steel 5-15; Jodan 5-15; Coyote 5-15; Tarn Tyrant 5-15; Sunny Bay 5-15; Anaheim 5-15; Fusillé 5-15; Another Chance 5-15; Caldera 5-15; Coyote 5-15.

1000 FLASHING STEEL (10-12-4) N O'Brien 11-11-11

Kempton Park

Going: good. 1. Hecate (M) (C) O'Brien 11-11-11 P Cogan
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Valanour lands impressive Longchamp success

VALANOUR, ridden by Gerold Moss, returned to his best form with a decisive defeat of Carling and Housman in the group two Prix d'Harcourt over ten furlongs at Longchamp yesterday.

It was the first outing for the Lomond colt, owned by the Aga Khan, since finishing a well-beaten sixth behind Pentire in the Guinness Champion Stakes at Leopardstown last September, but he scored by 1½ lengths with something in hand. The victory gave his trainer, Alain de Royer-Dupre, his first success of the season.

Gunboat Diplomacy, who started odds-on, could not handle the fast ground and finished last of the six runners.

The firm going also led to the withdrawal of the likely favourite, Le Triton, from the group II Prix Noailles (11), which Housman, trained by Elie Lelouche and partnered by Dominique Boeuf, won by four lengths. The 11-0 winner, who had triumphed ten lengths in his only previous race, set a course record yesterday and will now go for the Prix Lupin and the Prix du Jockey-Club.

Valanour and Carling are expected to meet again in the Prix Ganay, at Longchamp on April 28, which is also the objective of the leading Italian four-year-old Sticcius.

Sticcius was an impressive 2½ lengths winner of the £20,300 Premio d'Aprile over ten furlongs at San Siro, Milan, yesterday, with the British challenger, Penny Drops, ridden by David Harrison, fading into fourth after making a lot of the running.

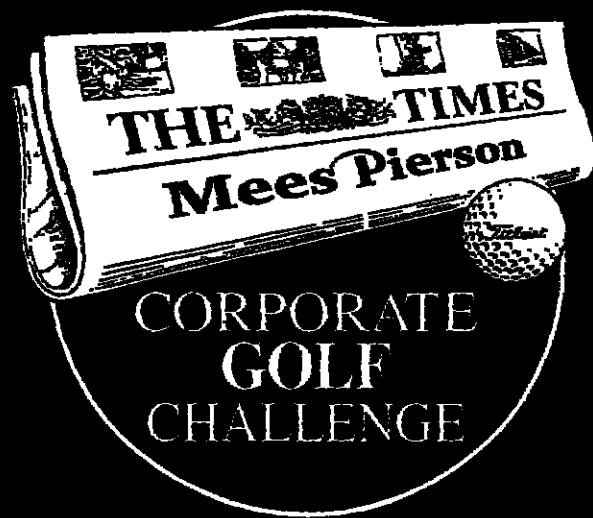
Cavonnier emerged as a challenger for the Kentucky Derby with a victory in the \$1 million Santa Anita Derby on Saturday. The Bob Baffert-trained colt came from off the pace to win by 1½ lengths from Alyrah, who was subsequently disqualified for interference, with the favourite, Honour And Glory, another 6½ lengths third.

Cavonnier, ridden by Chris McCarron, was considered the second string in Baffert's stable behind Semoran, who runs in the Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland on Saturday. If

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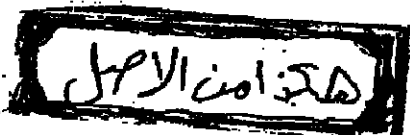
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No maintenance in assignment

Vicarious liability insurance lawful

Camdex International Ltd v Bank of Zambia
Before Mr Justice Neill, Lord Justice Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse
(Judgment April 3)

The assignment of a bona fide debt by its owner, in accordance with section 136 of the Law of Property Act 1925, was not invalid even if the necessity for litigation to recover it was contemplated.

It was not contrary to public policy for the new owner of the debt to sue for recovery of the debt even if the original owner retained an interest. What was contrary to public policy and ineffective was an agreement which had maintenance or champerty as its object: such a consequence would not be avoided by dressing up a transaction which had that character and intent as an assignment of a debt.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by the defendant, the Bank of Zambia, from the judgment of Mr Justice Neill of September 18, 1995 when on an application for summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court by the plaintiff, Camdex International Ltd, he ordered that judgment be entered for the plaintiffs in the sum of about 20.5 million Kwacha and interest amounting to about 15.4 million Kwacha.

The action was commenced by writ dated May 26, 1995. In their pleadings the plaintiffs claimed that on May 18, 1982 the Central Bank of Zambia assigned to them the sum of 15 million Kwacha and interest for a year at an agreed rate of interest. The deposit was renewed in subsequent years with the interest being accumulated.

On May 19, 1988 the Central Bank of Zambia and the defendant entered into two further agreements re-scheduling part of the defendant's interest liability and extended the deposit of the principal sum and the balance of the interest for a further year. The defendant paid a sum of 616,098 Kwacha during 1990 but otherwise failed to pay the sums due under the 1988 agreements.

Having pleaded the indebtedness of the defendant to the Central Bank of Zambia, the plaintiffs pleaded that by a document in writing dated April 27, 1995 the

Central Bank of Zambia assigned absolutely to the plaintiffs the debt due under the 1988 agreements and that the plaintiffs had given written notice of the assignment to the defendant and that they had accordingly become entitled to the payment of the debt to them.

Mr Timothy Walker, QC and Mr Richard Handyside for the defendant Mr Mark Howard for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that the defendant did not dispute its indebtedness to the Central Bank of Zambia or the amount of the debt. It solely disputed the validity and enforceability under English law of the assignment of the debt by the Central Bank of Zambia to the plaintiffs.

The principle of law on which the defendant sought to rely was that it was illegal to engage in maintenance or champerty. Until the Criminal Law Act 1967, such activities were both criminal and tortious. The principle of public policy survived: see section 14(2).

A person was guilty of maintenance if he supported litigation in which he had no legitimate interest without just cause or excuse. Champerty was an aggravated form of maintenance and occurred when a person maintaining another's litigation stipulated for a share of the proceeds of the action.

Where the champertious was trafficking in litigation, the modern approach was not to extend the types of involvement in litigation which were considered objectionable. There was a tendency to recognise less specific interests as being champertious.

Section 136 of the 1925 Act replaced the equivalent provision in the Judicature Act 1873 which made assignable in law any debt or other legal chose in action. The effect of the 1925 Act was to require the legal assignment, subject to the stated formalities, of the debt and enabled the assignee to sue on the assigned debt and obtain legal remedies in respect of it. The 1873 Act was considered in a number of cases in the Court of Appeal over the following years.

Those decisions were clear. Debts were a species of property recognised before 1873 in equity and since that date in both law and equity. Like other species of property they might be transferred to another and the legal rights which were the incidents of that property might be exercised by the new owner of that property.

It had to be observed from the outset that there was no authority which contradicted the right of the plaintiffs to recover. There was a debt and it was assigned in accordance with the statute.

The need for litigation to order recovery of the debt was heavily played but the need for such litigation did not make the assignment illegal or unenforceable. As a matter of fact the debt was undisputed but as a matter of law that was immaterial provided it was said that there was a debt to be assigned.

The price paid by the plaintiffs to purchase the debt was heavily discounted but there was no evidence that it represented anything other than a commercial valuation of the debt. The debt was assigned and the assignee was entitled to recover it in the ordinary course.

However, the defendant argued that nevertheless the assignment was not as a matter of law enforceable and relied on *Laurent v Sule* [1933] 1 WLR 829; *Trendtex Trading Corporation v Credit Suisse* [1982] AC 679 and *In re Trepanco Mines Ltd* (No 2) [1953] Ch 199.

Trepanco Mines did not involve any question of an assignment. It was a case of a litigant who was financially supported by another in return for a share in the proceeds. The agreement between the litigant and the financier was unquestionably champertious in character and the actual question concerned the duties of the solicitor acting for the litigant.

It was authority for the proposition that it was possible to make a champertious agreement in relation to legal proceedings for the recovery of a debt. It did not, in any way, purport to qualify, in any way the earlier authorities.

Laurent v Sule was authority for the propositions that the substance and not the form of any transaction had to be looked at and that, if there was any actual champertious intention, then that illegal or improper intention made the agreement unenforceable. It was well established in English law that an agreement which had an illegal object was likewise

illegal and that an agreement to act contrary to public policy was unenforceable.

The subject matter of the *Trendtex* case was remarkable and unusual. Before the court, the defendant relied on what was said by Lord Wilberforce (at p695), in referring to *Trepanco Mines* and *Laurent v Sule*. Lord Wilberforce had approved those two decisions.

In that context Lord Wilberforce was doing no more than recognising that an agreement could be entered into which had a champertious character whether or not it was dressed up as an assignment, even an assignment of a debt.

In his Lordship's judgment what Lord Wilberforce was saying did not go any further than that nor did the decision in *Trendtex* itself.

Thus none of those authorities altered the effect of the statute and the earlier decisions of the Court of Appeal. An assignment of a debt was not invalid even if the necessity for litigation to recover it was contemplated.

Provided that there was a bona fide debt, it did not become unassignable merely because the debt chose to dispute it. Suing on an assigned debt was not contrary to public policy even if the assignor retained an interest.

What was contrary to public policy and ineffective was an agreement which had maintenance or champerty as its object: such a consequence could not be avoided by dressing up a transaction which had that character and intent as an assignment of a debt.

But, because the assignment of a debt itself included no element of maintenance or champerty and was sanctioned by statute, any objectionable element alleged to invalidate the assignment had to be proved independently and distinctly in the same way as any other alleged illegality had to be proved in relation to a contract which was on its face valid.

The defendant had been unable to show any arguable case that the assignment of the debt by the Central Bank of Zambia was anything other than a bona fide purchase of a debt.

Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Gibson delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Baker McKenzie.

Lancashire County Council v Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd
Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Thorpe
(Judgment April 3)

It was not contrary to public policy for local authorities and chief constables to insure against their vicarious liability to pay damages, including exemplary damages, for the criminal acts of employees or police officers.

An insurance provision indemnifying the insured's legal liability to pay "compensation" was not wholly clear and unambiguous and could in context include awards of exemplary damages.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the defendant insurers, Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd, against a declaration by Judge Kershaw, QC, in the Queen's Bench Division at Manchester on May 21, 1994 that an insurance policy held by the plaintiffs, Lancashire County Council, provided indemnity for the liability to pay exemplary damages.

The relevant term of the policy, when read with an attached endorsement, was agreed to be: "The company agrees to indemnify the insured (including the Chief Constable of Lancashire) in respect of all sums which the insured shall become legally liable to pay as compensation arising out of (a) accidental bodily injury or illness ... to any person ... (The company agrees to regard bodily injury or illness caused by assault committed by a constable as being accidental); (b) Accidental loss or damage caused by the insured; (c) Wrongful arrest, malicious prosecution and false imprisonment by a constable when such injury, illness loss or damage ... arises out of the exercise of the functions of a local authority."

Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Christopher Russell for the insurers; Mr Michael Collins, QC and Mr Philippa Hopkins for the county council.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the insurers had been prompted by the insurance company's repudiation of liability for exemplary damages in two particular cases: a claim for false imprisonment, wrongful arrest, malicious prosecution, assault and respect to the person, alleging abuse while they were in care at one of the council's children's homes.

The insurance company's arguments were essentially threefold: 1. The words "all sums which the insured shall become legally liable to pay as compensation" were unambiguously excluded awards of exemplary damages. Those by definition were not paid to compensate the plaintiff, who would be fully compensated by the ordinary damages; 2. The words "arises out of the exercise of the functions of a local authority" were paid to punish or deter the defendant, to mark the disapproval which his conduct had provoked; see *AB v South West Water*.

For there to be disparity between the law applicable in London and New York on the point would be of great disservice to international banking.

In his Lordship's judgment, weak as the English authorities were, there was every reason in principle for adopting the course which they suggested and for confining protection of the creditor by means of designation of default interest provisions as penalties to retrospectively operating provisions.

If the increased rate of interest applied only from the date of default or thereafter there was no justification for striking down as a penalty a term providing for modest increase in the rate.

His Lordship would say nothing about exceptionally large increases. In such cases it might be possible to deduce that the dominant function was in deterrence or punishment.

No court could suggest that a 1 per cent rate increase could be such and it was, in his Lordship's view, consistent only with an increase in the consideration for the loan by reason of the increased credit risk represented by a borrower in default.

All the defences raised having failed, judgment was for the plaintiff.

Solicitors: Dibb Lupton Broomhead; Lovell White Durrant.

Services Ltd [1993] QB 507, 528-529

2 Even if "compensation" could and would otherwise be construed to include exemplary damages, so to construe it would be contrary to public policy. Those liable for exemplary damages would not be indemnified against such liability. "Compensation" should accordingly be more narrowly construed.

3 Even if the policy on its true construction provided indemnity against liability for exemplary as well as compensatory damages, public policy rendered the policy unenforceable in exemplary damage cases.

Construction (questions of public policy aside)

Although his Lordship accepted the insurance company's submission that the natural and ordinary meaning of "compensation" in the context of a legal liability to pay damages was one which excluded any element of exemplary damages, his Lordship could not accept that that meaning was wholly clear and unambiguous.

On the contrary it involved very much a literal, lawyers' understanding of the term and was one which would not command universal acceptance. Many, including no doubt most recipients, would regard compensation to mean all damages of whatever character and however calculated, payable to the victim of a tort.

That, as a matter of language, the word was capable of bearing that broader and less legalistic meaning was apparent from Lord Justice Staughton's judgment in *Riches v New Group Newspapers Ltd* [1986] QB 256, 263.

Given, therefore, that the word was capable of bearing either meaning, that is, as including, or as excluding exemplary damages, as asked which meaning it bore in the context of the particular policy. To that question there seemed only one possible answer: it included exemplary damages.

The policy expressly encompassed claims against the police for assault (deemed accidental), wrongful arrest, malicious prosecution and false imprisonment. Torts of that sort by their very nature attracted claims for exemplary damages. That and other considerations strongly supported the council's contention that the policy covered such claims.

Further, in cases of ambiguity and where other rules of construction failed, an instrument should be construed more strongly against its maker or grantor. Therefore, were there any doubt as to which construction would otherwise apply, it would plainly be right to resolve the ambiguity in favour of the council.

Public policy as an aid to construction

The insurance company's argument on public policy involved two distinct propositions.

First, any exemplary damage award for which indemnity might be sought under the policy would almost inevitably have involved

the commission of a crime and no one could insure himself against liability for criminal conduct.

Second, an award of exemplary damages was designed to punish and deter: public policy should accordingly preclude anyone liable for such an award from being entitled to indemnity against it.

His Lordship rejected both propositions as being relevant as an aid to construction.

Public policy as to enforcement

Q. No indemnity for criminal conduct

That proposition would result in the council being held denied to its indemnity whatever in a case involving an exemplary damage award. The argument was:

First, any such award under the policy could only be in one of the categories of case to which exemplary damages were now confined: oppressive, arbitrary or unconstitutional action by the servants of government, including local authorities and the police.

Second, conduct falling within that category would almost inevitably be criminal.

Third, a person could not insure himself against liability for committing a crime.

His Lordship unanimously accepted the principle that a person could not insure against a liability consequent on the commission of a crime, whether of deliberate violence or otherwise: save in certain circumstances where, for example, compulsory insurance was required and enforceable even by the insured.

In many cases where the question of liability for exemplary damages was likely to arise for consideration under the policy, the police officer concerned would have acted criminally. Consistently that would be so in cases of assault, even though the injuries were deemed by the policy to have been inflicted accidentally.

Where, however, the insurance company's argument broke down was in its assumption that the chief constable's liability was one against which the law forbade indemnity.

There was nothing either in the authorities or in logic to justify extending the principle of public policy as to duty insurance cover to those whose sole liability was one which arose vicariously, whether as employers or, as here, under an equivalent statutory provision: section 48 of the Police Act 1964.

The only circumstance which could give rise to any doubt or difficulty as to the council's or chief constable's entitlement to indemnity under the policy would be where the individual constable himself had been sued and was also prima facie entitled to indemnity under the policy.

However, it was quite inappropriate on what was essentially a construction summons appeal to attempt a definitive ruling on hypothetical facts.

(b) No indemnity for the exemplary damage element of any award

Should the court for the first

time create and impose a rule of public policy in English law refusing to permit indemnity against exemplary damage awards?

His Lordship would regard that as wholly inappropriate for two main interlocking reasons.

First, there appeared a number of different policy considerations in play: not by any means all pointing in the same direction. They included:

1. While it was true that to allow a defendant liable for exemplary damages to be held harmless against them by insurance must undoubtedly reduce the deterrent and punitive effect of the order upon him, it would greatly improve the plaintiffs' prospects of recovering the sum awarded.

2. Even though the defendant's liability was insured, an exemplary damage award was still likely to have punitive effect. There might well be limits of liability and deductibles under the policy.

Second, the insured was likely to have to pay higher premiums in future and might well, indeed, have difficulty in obtaining re-insurance.

3. There was a separate public interest in holding parties to their contracts, particularly where, as here, it was open to the insurers to exclude liability for exemplary damages. If insurers took the premium, they should meet the risk.

4. True, as some of the foreign cases pointed out, if the damages were held recoverable against insurers the burden fell not on the general public by way of a rise in premiums. It, however, the damages were not thus recovered, then, certainly in a case like the present, the burden fell not on an individual tortfeasor but rather on to the local body of ratepayers.

The second main reason why it would be wrong to accede to the insurance company's argument was because contracts should only be held unenforceable on public policy grounds in very plain cases. The courts should be wary of minding new rules of public policy when the legislature had not done so.

Particularly that was so where, as in the present situation, the whole future of exemplary damages was in a state of uncertainty and subject to active and extensive consideration.

The Law Commission's recent consultation paper No 132 *Aggravated, Exemplary and Restitutionary Damages* (1993) canvassed a wide range of possibilities as to the appropriate way forward.

A sudden burst of common law creativity should not be one of them. Still less should the court in those circumstances be persuaded to impose the most extreme position of all: the forbidding of indemnity even to those only vicariously liable.

Lord Justice Staughton gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: L. Watmore & Co; Mr G. A. Johnson, Preston.

Default interest increase is not a penalty

Lordsvale Finance plc v Bank of Zambia
Before Mr Justice Colman
(Judgment March 20)

A provision in an agreement for a prospective interest increase in the rate of default interest was not a penalty.

Mr Justice Colman so held in the Queen's Bench Division in entering summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for the plaintiffs, Lordsvale Finance plc, in an action claiming against the defendant, the Bank of Zambia, payment of the principal sum owed under two agreements together with default interest.

The plaintiffs were assignees of rights arising under two oil import facility agreements made in 1984 and 1985 between two syndicates of banks and the defendant under which large financial facilities were made available to the defendant. The defendant had defaulted when the facility advances had fallen due for repayment in 1986.

The amount of default interest claimed by the plaintiffs in 1995 exceeded the principal amounts due under the agreements. Judgment had been entered against the defendant in a first action for the principal amounts and when the defendant failed to pay the default interest a second action was commenced.

The defendant served points of defence which included the contention that under an article of the agreement which specified how default interest would be calculated, part of the method of calculation was unenforceable because it was in the nature of a penalty.

Mr Barbara Dohmann, QC and Mr Michael Lazarus for Lordsvale Finance; Mr Michael Brindle, QC and Mr Richard Handyside for Bank of Zambia.

MR JUSTICE COLMAN said that the defendant contended, inter alia, that in as much as the constituents of default interest included an unexplained 1 per cent in addition to the margin and the cost of obtaining dollar deposits to fund the bank's participation, the 1 per cent was a penalty. It was said to be in terrorem the borrower, its sole function being to ensure compliance with the agreements.

His Lordship said that the point was of considerable importance to English banking law because it was well known that a default interest rate uplift was very widely used, particularly in syndicated loans such as in the present case.

Having considered the history of the relevant case law, his Lordship said that there seemed to be no reason to suppose that a default interest rate uplift was a penalty. The effect of which was to increase the consideration payable under an executory contract upon the happening of a default, should be struck down as a penalty if the increase could in the circumstances be explained as commercially justifiable, provided always that its dominant purpose was not to deter the other party from breach.

While fully accepting that the English cases could hardly be described with justification as a long line of authority and that none of the authorities was notable for its clarity of analysis, such authority as there did suggest that at least on three occasions since 1725 the courts had been prepared to enforce increased rates of interest or analogous payments where the increases applied from the date of default.

On the other hand the conventional view of authorities characterising default interest as a penalty, appeared to be based on cases where the default interest provision operated retrospectively as well as prospectively from the date of default.

London was one of the greatest centres of international banking in the world and one in which as well as in New York, most of the world's international syndicated loans were set up. Such loans almost invariably provided for enhanced rates of default interest to apply.

It would be highly regrettable, his Lordship said, if the English courts were to refuse to give effect to such prevalent provisions while the courts in New York were prepared to enforce them.

In the absence of compelling reasons of principle or binding authority to the contrary there could be no doubt that the courts of this country should adopt in international trade law that approach to the problem which was consistent with that which operated in that nation which was the other major participant in the trade in question.

For there to be disparity between the law applicable in London and New York on the point would be of great disservice to international banking.

In his Lordship's judgment, weak as the English authorities were, there was every reason in principle for adopting the course which they suggested and for confining protection of the creditor by means of designation of default interest provisions as penalties to retrospectively operating provisions.

If the increased rate of interest applied only from the date of default or thereafter there was no justification for striking down as a penalty a term providing for modest increase in the rate.

His Lordship would say nothing about exceptionally large increases. In such cases it might be possible to deduce that the dominant function was in deterrence or punishment.

No court could suggest that a 1 per cent rate increase could be such and it was, in his Lordship's view, consistent only with an increase in the consideration for the loan by reason of the increased credit risk represented by a borrower in default.

All the defences raised having failed, judgment was for the plaintiff.

Solicitors: Dibb Lupton Broomhead; Lovell White Durrant.

Wilander and Another v Tobin and Another

In the context of the International Tennis Federation's anti-doping code, combined in rule 33 of the ITF Rules and the French Protocol incorporated therein, it was neither unfair nor unreasonable that rule 33 reversed the normal burden of proof by requiring a player who had prima facie tested positive for drugs to prove his innocence on a preponderance of the evidence; that is, on the balance of probabilities.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse) so held on March 26, dismissing an appeal by Arne Old Wilander and Karel Novacek against Mr Justice Lightman's refusal on March 19 to restrain Brian Tobin, president,

and David Judge, honorary treasurer of the ITF, from continuing with or acting upon proceedings against the appellants by reference to rule 33 of the federation rules.

Mr Justice Lightman in the Chancery Division had cited *Consh v Onslow Fane* [The Times June 26, 1975, CA] and *Gasser v Sison* (unreported, June 15, 1988) and said that he could see nothing approaching unfairness or unreasonableness in the wording of

procedure of the International Tennis Federation Rules.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the appellants had not shown an arguable case that the ITF was in fundamental breach of contract, or that rule 33 was unfair or unreasonable and therefore void as being in unlawful restraint of trade, or that the anti-doping procedures followed by the ITF and its review board were so defective as to entitle the court to

grant an interlocutory injunction restraining further proceedings by its appeal committee.

It was important that the rules of international sporting bodies like the ITF should be absolutely clear and most carefully drafted to avoid the possibility of confusion and doubt.

Different sporting bodies should, as far as possible, adopt in their rules common practices for drug testing.

Documents request was too wide

Forrester v British Railways Board

In an action resulting from a child's fatal fall from a moving train, British Railways Board could not be ordered to make available to the plaintiff documentation that included all its fatal and non-fatal accident reports nor its reports on incidents concerning the door-locking mechanism, design, maintenance and safety.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Rose, Lord Justice Aldous and Sir Iain Glick) so held on February 16 dismissing an interlocutory appeal by Jeanine Forrester from the refusal by Judge Pheasant, sitting as a deputy judge of the High Court in April 1995, of her application for specific discovery of seven classes of documents from British Railways Board.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said that the plaintiff sought documents concerning all maintenance, repairs and service records on all doors on all Inter-City trains; reports on incidents involving the opening of doors while trains were in motion; be they notices or not; reports on failures of all doors, hinge equipment and securing devices; and reports of claims by passengers or staff who had fallen from moving trains.

The width of the request was staggering. The judge, concluding it to be oppressive, suggested a sensible way forward: that the plaintiffs' expert should look at two recent independent reports, by Knight Widdling and by the Health and Safety Executive, which dealt with the problem of doors opening, set out statistics and contained recommendations. Thereafter the plaintiff could be advised as to the documents necessary for her case.

Charter-party cannot displace rule of domicile

Samcon Co SA v NV Petrofina SA and Another (The World Hitiachi Zosen)
Before Mr Justice Langley
(Judgment March 14)

In contractual disputes an expressly worded agreement was needed to displace the general jurisdiction rule of domicile under the 1968 Brussels Convention, scheduled to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982. The wording of a standard charter-party clause was not sufficient to establish a special jurisdiction under either article 5(1) or article 17 of the 1968 Convention.

Mr Justice Langley so held in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing the application by the defendants, NV Petrofina SA, cargo owners, and Compagnie Europeenne D'Assurances Industrielles SA, cargo insurers, for a declaration that the English court had no jurisdiction and that the writ should therefore be set aside. The plaintiffs, Samcon Co SA, owned the vessel World Hitiachi Zosen, which was carrying the cargo.

Mr Peter Gross, QC and Mr Stephen Berry for the plaintiffs; Mr Alistair Schaaf for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE LANGLEY said that the World Hitiachi Zosen was involved in a collision while en route from Kharg Island, Iran to Rotterdam. There was a fire and explosion. General average was declared and the cargo was transhipped to another vessel to complete the voyage to Rotterdam.

The plaintiffs submitted their claim to special jurisdiction lay in clause 36 of the Shetland 5 charter-party, incorporated in the bill of lading, where the words "general average shall be ... adjusted in London" constituted an agreement whereby disputes about general

average contribution were to be settled in the United Kingdom rather than in Belgium which was the defendants' country of domicile.

In support of that, it was contended that the word "adjusted" meant "settled or paid" and that London was therefore the place of performance of the obligation giving rise to special jurisdiction as required by article 5(1) of the Brussels Convention.

Further, the wording of the clause was sufficient to bring the case within article 17 of the Convention whereby such an agreement to establish special jurisdiction might be evidenced in writing, or in a form which accorded with commercial usage regularly observed by parties to contracts of the trade involved in the dispute, the trade or commerce concerned.

The defendants contended that "adjusted" normally meant "computed or assessed"; that the custom and practice of adjusters acting as

a clearing house for claims was a matter of convenience not obligation; and that it was always open to the parties to agree expressly on place of payment and jurisdiction which they had not.

His Lordship said that the authorities cited provided no real assistance in answering the question of construction of the clause.

However, on the evidence before him, the word "adjusted" by itself would normally be taken to refer to the process of assessment of general average contributions; more explicit wording would be needed to create a binding agreement as to the place of payment.

Consequently, the wording of clause 36 was not sufficiently specific to bring the contract within article 5(1) or article 17 of the Brussels Convention, thereby enabling the general rule conferring jurisdiction on the courts of the defendants' country of domicile to be ousted.

Solicitors: Clyde & Co, Guildford; Ince & Co, London.

Penal notice absent

Cleveland County Council v L and Others

In the absence of a penal notice, the court would not impose a sentence of imprisonment for breach of a court order to abstain from an act where there was no evidence that the possibility of imprisonment for contempt had been drawn to the contemnor's attention.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Hirst

When I was young, going to work for a building society meant a dull future but a secure one — a few years behind a counter, a few in head office doing the accounts, a few more in head office doing precious little at all and a comfortable retirement.

Now the counter clerks and accountants are being sacked in their thousands. Meanwhile, Peter Robinson, who is no longer with the Woolwich, has twitched aside the curtain and shown just what rewards might be available to those who claw their way to the top. Those counter clerks are being sacrificed because building societies have taken to cutting each other's throats and those of the banks, and vice versa. This is called the benefits of a competitive market.

So much for housing. Another basic necessity of life was threatened with the same benefits last week, the Government having decided to extend its enormously successful plans for gas and electricity, which threaten disaster for both, into water.

Various doubts immediately emerge. Yorkshire Water, for one, had better not be too zealous about going for new customers elsewhere, although I suppose its skills in shipping the stuff around in tankers might usefully be contracted out to other companies. The whole exercise is marked by the political spin-doctors as a way of getting back at the "fat cats". This implies the naive belief that we will place our orders with the supplier that pays its

executives least, thereby entrusting our business to the management statistically pre-selected to be the industry's worst.

There is also consumer inertia. Knock on any door in the country and offer to cut the telephone bill by 10 or 15 per cent, and you will receive a dusty response. I know this because that is just what the cable phone companies have been doing, and little they have had of it. A former colleague of mine used to spend many a happy hour plugged into his home computer fiddling with his various savings and bank accounts on virtually a daily basis to maximise the interest. Doubtless he made a few pennies; most of us cannot be bothered, and the same goes for finding cheaper insurance — or cheaper water, cheaper gas or cheaper electricity, I suspect.

But when you look at the fun being had in bringing competition into the last two areas, you wonder if ministers are already in a hole and digging furiously — and in danger of fracturing a water main. Last week we learnt that such is the disarray in the national pipeline system that British Gas and the independent suppliers cannot agree

Can't pay? Then you will have to pay more



between them just how much is in the system. The pilot scheme to introduce 500,000 householders in the South West to a fully competitive market this summer is three or four months behind schedule, and the week's news does not inspire confidence for this, or the coming of a nationwide competitive market over the next two years.

The 1998 deadline for full competition for electricity is in similar disarray. The industry has fallen out, not for the first time, but now over the systems being introduced to allow settlement of customers' bills. But assume that it all works, and that one day we each have a parcel

of water, power and gas suppliers offering cheap deals. Prices will fall — but perhaps not for everyone.

There is a theory gaining ground called the social cost of distribution, which says that the rich will get the low bills and the poor the high ones. This is because there is nothing in the rules to stop the new entrants cherry-picking the better-off consumers and offering them the cheapest rates.

Any utility knows that 15 to 20 per cent of its customers struggle to pay their bills at some point. These are the Can't Pays, not the Won't Pays, who are very few, or the Forgot to Pays, which includes nearly all of us at one time or another. These people are incredibly expensive to service. The practice of disconnection has largely died out. Can't Pays are now offered debt counselling — this is the 1990s, remember — pre-payment meters and other such help. The meters are expensive to install, the rest takes up administrative time. As a result, a poor household costs £50 per year more to supply with electricity than a well-off one — on an average annual bill of £300 or so.

Power companies already discriminate as far as they are allowed

to, offering a better rate to those who pay by direct debit and a worse rate for pre-payment meters. But neither they nor British Gas are allowed to refuse to supply anyone just because they have a dodgy credit record.

The new suppliers coming into the market, and they include hard-nosed retailers such as Sainsbury and Tesco, can do just that. They can ensure their customer base is stripped of the Can't Pays, or even the A Bit Tight This Month. They can use demographic data, restricting themselves to the more prosperous neighbourhoods. Or they can offer individual and less favourable terms to bad credit risks — a £500 deposit, for example, a sum out of the reach of poor families.

The less profitable customers will have to stay with the existing suppliers. Because they are more expensive to service, those firms' margins will suffer, or they will have to play the same game. They cannot by law charge higher tariffs per unit of gas or power for those less able to pay. But there are ways of discriminating further against the poor, such as raising the cost of pre-paid metering while forcing more of them to take it.

Some in the industry have already sounded a warning about the dangers of the social cost of distribution, and these warnings are now soaking through to the attention of the Labour Party. It is a complex subject to hammer into a 15-second soundbite. But it is an important one.

Decision day looms for Lloyd's

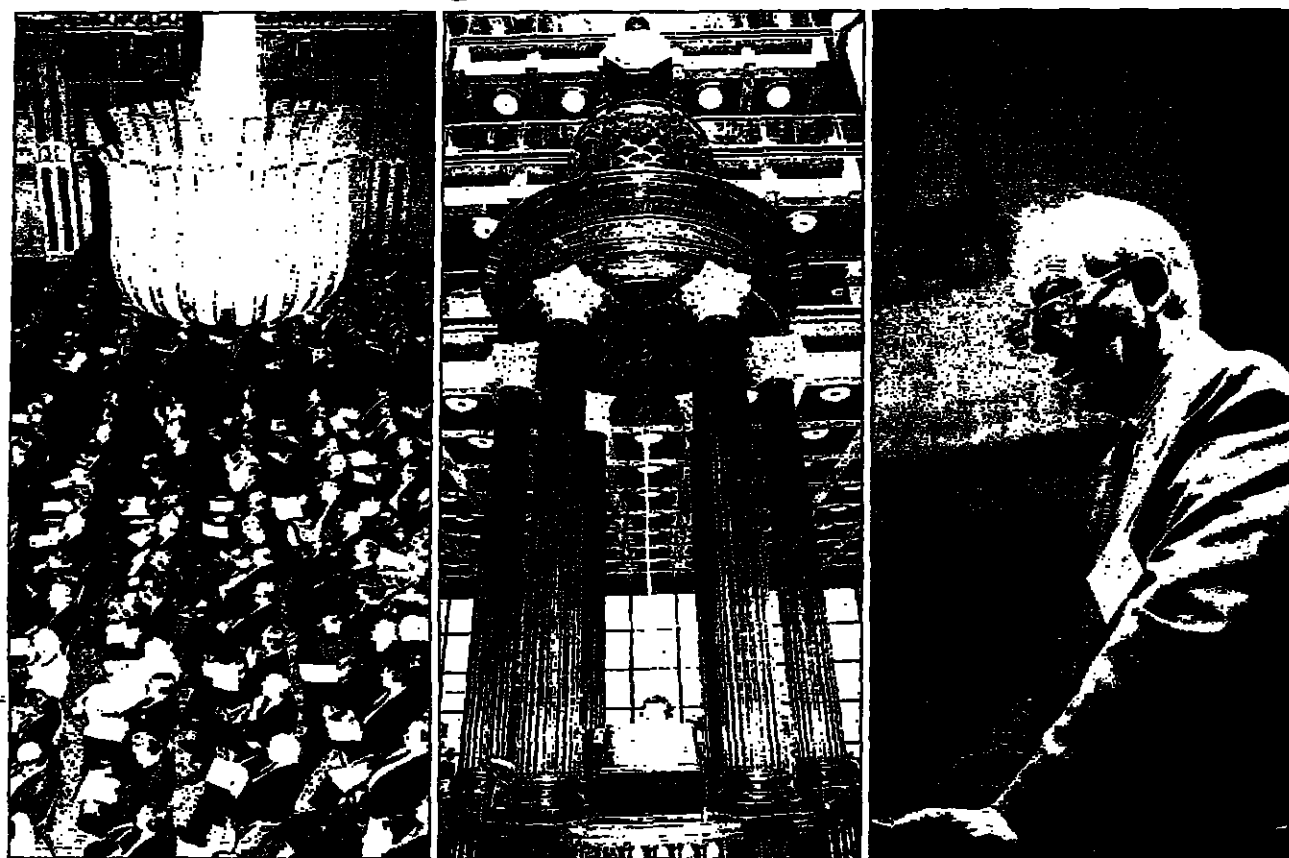
As Lloyd's names assess a critique of its rescue plan, Sarah Bagnall considers the way ahead

In July, more than 34,000 people may make the most important decision of their lives. Will they accept or reject Lloyd's of London's settlement offer, currently £2.8 billion? Whichever way names jump, the outcome will have severe ramifications not only for the financial predicament in which each now stands, but for countless others. The problem for many names is knowing what to do.

Lloyd's proposes that names pay a "reinsurance" premium to a specially formed reinsurance company to offload their liabilities relating to risks insured before 1993. Many of these debts relate to asbestosis and pollution claims from the US and were underwritten as long ago as the 1960s.

To encourage names to agree to the plan, the insurance market has collected £2.8 billion, which is being distributed among names to try to cut the premiums for every name to affordable levels.

If names accept the offer, they will obtain a degree of "finality" and be able to resign from the market and walk away. Furthermore, the



The world of names, the Lutite Bell and Sir David Berriman, leader of Lloyd's members, face major changes

estates of deceased names will be able to be closed and assets distributed. At present, a name cannot leave the market if in syndicates exposed to unquantifiable loss.

In return, names give up their rights to litigate against a mass of possible targets, such as members' agents and managing agents. This is because

the insurers of these parties are contributing to the settlement package and, as a result, have effectively offered an out-of-court settlement.

Many names are unsure whether to accept the offer, and — as some see it — Lloyd's off the hook, or whether to dismiss the offer in preference for the unknown and so forgo the chance of having their debts capped. There is no definitive answer.

Various players, such as the Lloyd's Names Association's Working Party, have put forward alternative plans to that of Lloyd's, claiming that they are "better" for names. We now enter the grey and shifting world of the hypothetical.

It is impossible to impose laboratory conditions on the insurance market and conclude that the mixture of 34,000 names, X units of lawsuits and Y units of cash will result in Z. This inability arises from the incoherence of Lloyd's and inability to look into the future and ascertain what actions the various parties will take or the outcome of many potential legal claims.

As a result, assessing alternatives to Lloyd's Reconstruction and Renewal Plan is far from easy. This task has, however, been tackled by Slaughter and May, a firm of solicitors. The Lloyd's Settlement Validation Steering Group, chaired by Sir David Berriman, chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members, commissioned from the firm the report into alternatives to R&R that was delivered at the weekend. The report recognises the size of its task, saying: "It is... [a] consequence of the complexity of the Lloyd's system that persuasive alternative arguments will always be available."

However, the stark conclusion of the 50-page report is: "If Lloyd's ceases to carry on business, it is unlikely that any set-

tion of the Lloyd's community will be better off." It emphasises that this remark is not advice that names accept Lloyd's offer and that they must make their own decisions.

The report considers likely consequences if Lloyd's went into run-off — when the market ceases to underwrite new business. There would be no premium income. The market's cash flow would dry up. The result would be no cash to pay claims or expenses, with the situation worsened by a possible rush by policyholders to enforce or secure claims.

Furthermore, the Lloyd's Central Fund would no longer be available to cover names' losses, because Lloyd's would have to retain its funds to meet its own debts, such as the burden of Lloyconer, in which liabilities of the PCW syndicates were reinsured.

American policyholders would probably renew efforts to establish pre-answer bonds, whereby a claimant can make an insurer put up money for the full sum claimed before the legal action is heard, irrespective of the claim's merits. It is also likely that Lloyd's American trust funds would be frozen, making assets held in the US unavailable to meet claims.

The inter-dependence of names means that many solvent ones would become insolvent because a managing agent would not be able to pay out claims lodged against an insolvent name. As a result, the Department of Trade and Industry will bar a solvent name from continuing reinsurance as an asset if that reinsurance is provided by an insolvent name. Given the web of reinsurance between syndicates, knock-on effects would trap many names.

The LNAWP argues that the managing agent will be able to pay out claims relating to insolvent names. However, un-

certainty over the legality of such a move would probably cause inertia. In consequence, the whole market would freeze and no money could leave it. What is more likely is that the DTI could demand that names pump substantial sums of money into the system to cover their potential liabilities.

Slaughter and May says the basic question is whether run-off would cost names more than R&R, and answers: "It is difficult not to conclude that run-off would probably lead to increased expense and difficulties for names. Syndicates would not be able to close and names would be trapped until all their liabilities had been met."

If names were asked to inject more funds into a collapsed Lloyd's, many might refuse and form action groups to resist any attempts to recover their assets. They could test LNAWP theory, called Dead Man's Stop. This is the argument that the policyholder's claim is against those names who were on the syndicate when the risk was insured, which, in the case of asbestosis, could be 30 years ago.

As a result, a policyholder has to pursue his claim with those original names, many of whom may be dead or lacking adequate assets. Dead names' trust funds would be reopened and beneficiaries pursued for the assets. Though it is not stated

in the report, a policyholder has the right, if an estate's assets are inadequate, to pursue its trustees and executors. This is causing worry in the legal and accounting professions.

The policyholder will progress down the chain of syndicate years through the reinsurers to close process, pulling thousands of resigned names back into the frame. When it finally landed at the door of the present-day syndicate's names, the claim will have swelled by the loading on costs.

The LNAWP argues, however, that present-day names would obtain finality because the policyholder would be unable to work his way down the chain. What is more likely, according to Slaughter and May, is that Lloyd's would not let one group of names breach their obligations to another group of names. This obligation arises from the reinsurance to close process.

Policyholders are not likely to let names pull this stunt either, and would probably form an action group to fight their case. The report also considers whether there are other ways to obtain finality for names, and if so, how they compare with the proposed method. The report looks at statutory finality: Dead Man's Stop; avoiding liability on grounds of fraud; avoiding liability on grounds of material non-disclosure; and the Clementson case.

It concludes: "We are unable to think of a better form of finality, for the generality of names, than that offered by the proposed reinsurance into Equitas." That is in spite of recognising that it is not true finality — but is the same as the finality offered to names through the normal reinsurance to close process anyway. That is, liability reverts to them if the reinsurance is inadequate.

Overall, the alternatives do not look enticing. However, the report says: "There will undoubtedly be some names who remain so angry that they do not care whether Lloyd's survives or not. This is why more than £2.8 billion may be required for the R&R proposals to achieve acceptance... In our view, it is unlikely to be in the interests of any section of the community to take Lloyd's over the edge."

The final sentence of the report says in all. Referring to the difficulty that names have in making their minds up, it says: "All we can do is to express the hope that the Council [of Lloyd's] will succeed in finding enough additional money to make it easier for each name to make that very difficult decision."

A fan's fight for his hero

Cinderella Man. Radio 5 Live, 10.05pm. I had never heard of Paddy Monaghan, bare-knuckle fighter and builder's labourer, hero-worshiped by anti-Vietnam war protesters in Britain demanding the title stance. Monaghan organised a petition to get him to the US. He became a hero to him. A grateful Ali invited him to the US. He became a close friend. At Ali's big fight, Monaghan visited the cash-strapped corner. At Christmas time, the champion visited the cash-strapped corner. At Christmas time, the champion visited the cash-strapped corner. At Christmas time, the champion visited the cash-strapped corner.

Monday Play: Uganda. Radio 4, 7.45pm. The imagined sound I kept hearing as I listened to Judith Johnson's play was the rattle of drawbridges being lowered. Uganda is about people who can neither physically being lowered. Uganda is about people who can neither physically being lowered. Uganda is about people who can neither physically being lowered.

RADIO 1

6.00am News 6.05am Charlie Jordan 6.30 Kew Gardens 6.45am Radio 1 Roadshow 7.00am News 7.15 Soundbite 7.30 Andy Kershaw 8.00am News 8.15 On the Road 8.30am News 8.45am News 9.00am News 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.45am News 10.00am News 10.15am News 10.30am News 10.45am News 11.00am News 11.15am News 11.30am News 11.45am News 11.55am News 12.00am News 12.15am News 12.30am News 12.45am News 1.00am News 1.15am News 1.30am News 1.45am News 1.55am News 2.00am News 2.15am News 2.30am News 2.45am News 2.55am News 3.00am News 3.15am News 3.30am News 3.45am News 3.55am News 4.00am News 4.15am News 4.30am News 4.45am News 4.55am News 5.00am News 5.15am News 5.30am News 5.45am News 5.55am News 6.00am News 6.15am News 6.30am News 6.45am News 6.55am News 7.00am News 7.15am News 7.30am News 7.45am News 7.55am News 8.00am News 8.15am News 8.30am News 8.45am News 8.55am News 9.00am News 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.45am News 9.55am News 10.00am News 10.15am News 10.30am News 10.45am News 10.55am News 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Why are the British always the bad guys?

Finally, **Band of Gold** (ITV) bowed out last night after a stunning second series — deeper and better even than the first, with quality acting right up to its bums. “Jesus I can’t Andie any more!” said Geraldine James last night, but don’t believe her, she’s said that before. Reprieved Carol inherited the chicken factory; crazy, white-faced Tracey committed suicide in Harrogate; and brilliant Lena Headey (Collette) earned her place in the cast of the next series. “Come say iara to Tracey,” they said.

Lynne
Truss

8.50 FILM: A River Runs Through It (1992) with Craig Sheffer, Brad Pitt and Tom Skerritt. A drama about two disaffected brothers and their Montana Presbyterian Church family, examining their lives over the years during the 1920s. Robert Redford's third film as director (Teletext) (11767953)

11.10 Inner City Blues: The Tribute to Nat King Cole. The singer's story is told through the lyrical content of his songs and special videos from artists such as Madonna, Stevie Wonder, Bono, Neneh Cherry and Noni Java (776457)

12.30am Dream Doll: A Bob Godfrey animation (4476281)

12.45 The Late Late Show. The guests include Lesley Manville and Hugh Laurie (Teletext) (1176796)

1.45 FILM: The Happy Family (1952, b/w) with Stanley Holloway, Kathleen Harrison and George Cole. Comedy about a London couple who refuse to leave their grocery business which the audience will want to see in the extra space for the Festival of Britain. Directed by Muriel Box (899286). Ends at 3.20

more conventional tradition. Waldhorn, John Bluthal, and the incomparable Liz S. especially fruitful. The libretto by the vicar's dubious jokers is Chambers's guileless Alice by the vicar's dubious jokers credits. The fun tonight villagers' sacrifices for Len called the Dibley bunny.

CMT EUROPE
Country music from 6am to 7pm on satellite, 24-hours on cable. Including 5.00pm Saturday Nite Dance Ranch 6.00-7.00 Big Ticket

ZEE TV

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34) 4.30	Present: (37366601)	9.00 Guparati Serial
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(83854311) 3.00 Flu (27710446) 3.30
Rapped in Sex Files
Sex Files
Sex Files
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779) 5.55

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

then TNT films as below.
7.00pm The Time Machine (1960)
(1041236) 9.00 Seven Brides for Seven
Brothers (1954) (8518459) 11.00 Brain-
storm (1993) (5546272) 12.55pm Jack

PERFORMANCE

BBC WORLD

The State
C (18750)
1731 5.00

440 9.00
00 for You
My Years

SELECTV
5.00pm Birds of a Feather 5.30 All Together
Now 6.00 Hey Dad 6.30 Freddie and Max

Tracy Vilmer 9.00 Love Hunts 10.00
Lovejoy 11.30-12.00 Golf

Post Office targets the travel trade

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Post Office has set its sights on becoming the biggest travel agent in Britain and plans to sell cut-price scheduled airline tickets in most of its 20,000 branches across the UK.

The service is now available at the Trafalgar Square office in London, where a six-month trial is being carried out. If successful, it will be rolled out nationally in up to 600 of the largest high street branches.

Within a year, thousands more branches could have computer systems in place to enable customers to fix up their travel documents alongside buying stamps and postal orders.

The move will increase the price war between Britain's 7,000 travel shops and high street agencies, which have been suffering this year from lack of customer demand for holidays, and fierce price competition.

The Association of British Travel Agents has not been consulted over the plans. It

said it was unaware that the service had begun.

The Post Office has made no secret of its ambitions to become a one-stop holiday shop. It believes that the service, which involves the sale of flights only, and not holiday packages, will complement its existing foreign exchange and travel insurance sales through its 20,000 counters. A spokesman said: "We are visited by 28 million people every week, so the opportunities are enormous."

The Post Office is not alone in recognising the money-making potential of the travel business, estimated to be worth about £7 billion this year. Banks, clothing chains, including River Island, the fashion store, and supermarkets are all keen to secure a slice of the profit.

Both travel insurance and foreign exchange have proved popular with customers and may encourage the Post Office to expand further into personal

financial services by the end of the decade. At present, customers are able to buy foreign currency and travel cheques on demand at 600 larger outlets, but those using 19,000 smaller offices need to order their currency and cheques in advance.

A Post Office spokesman said of the Trafalgar Square trial that it was too early to say whether the customers had been buying tickets for Easter travel or for later in the year.

The Post Office is offering seats unsold by scheduled airlines. It said that it had no plans at present to sell surplus charter airline tickets, although the possibility of introducing such a service at a later date had not been ruled out.

The spokesman added that Post Office branches might also consider selling theatre tickets in the future, although such a move was not an option at present. He added: "We do not believe air tickets will be sold in some of the more rural areas, but we do feel there is a market for them in larger towns and cities."

Richard Dykes, head of Post Office Counters, has been working with Commodore, the computerised booking agency, to set up the Trafalgar Square trial. In time, branches may end up offering a full holiday advice service.

The spokesman said: "We will be selling tickets for all the major airlines which have spare seats on their aircraft."

He added: "In common with other similar services, we cannot guarantee that customers will be able to get the exact flight they request, but we will try to obtain the closest possible alternative. It is too early to say how many more branches will be offering this service after the six-month trial but we are confident that it will prove popular."

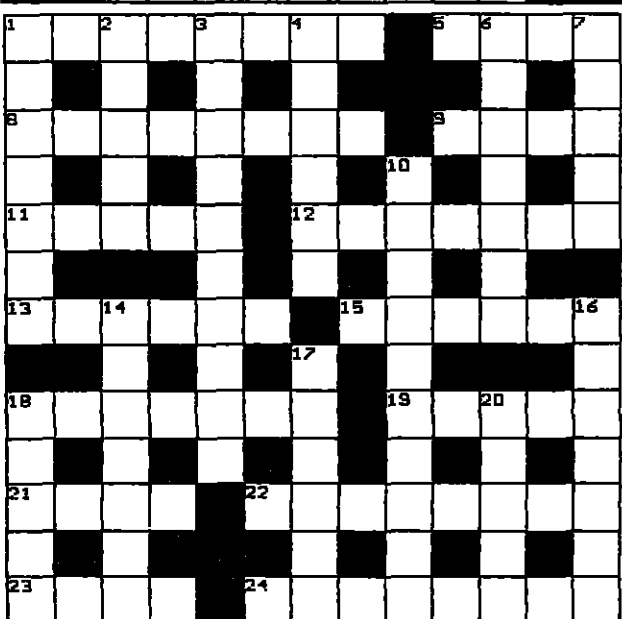
The Post Office's plans are part of a deal to allow a wider range of services after the Government decided to abandon the privatisation of Royal Mail.

Leading article, page 15



Backpackers at the new Trafalgar Square travel centre

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 750

ACROSS

- 1 Wicked act of violence (8)
- 5 Metrical units; imperial units (4)
- 8 Be successful (2,6)
- 9 Strain to look; equal (4)
- 11 Stay in bed longer (3,2)
- 12 Speak badly of (7)
- 13 A particular government (6)
- 15 Stand-in monarch (6)
- 18 Thrower (7)
- 19 Of the eye (5)
- 21 Gem; Jack —, killed Lee H. Oswald (4)
- 22 Stone-throwing device (8)
- 23 Appearance, manner (4)
- 24 Improvident (8)

DOWN

- 1 Bony; awkward (7)
- 2 Indian money (5)
- 3 Puff away non-stop (5-5)
- 4 Top-of-dartboard number (6)
- 6 Carry out (7)
- 7 Bottom-of-dartboard number (5)
- 10 Dress down (4,2,4)
- 14 Mutter complaints (7)
- 16 Roman historian, notably brief (7)
- 17 Suave, polished (6)
- 18 Personal-computer memory disc (2-3)
- 20 Suspension of hostilities (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 749

ACROSS: 2 Blessing 6 Become 8 Draper 9 Develop 10 Natal 12 Sarcophagi 16 Murphy's Law 18 Haven 20 Pro rata 21 Tongan 22 Supine 23 Pump Room

DOWN: 1 General 2 Below par 3 Spring 4 Input 5 Circle 7 Overcome 11 Airstrip 13 Aphorism 14 Halting 15 Shut up 17 Unfair 19 Venom

SOLUTION TO EASTER HOLIDAY JUMBO CONCISE

ACROSS: 1 Went like a lamb to the slaughter 15 Out of pocket 16 Notably 17 Posting 18 Panel game 19 Amphetamine 20 Argus 21 Croesus 23 Externally 24 Dinosaur 27 Euro 28 Compassing 30 Connoisseur 33 Mistakeable 35 Terrace 36 Deprive 38 Opera 39 Laryngitis 41 Pre-release 43 Tridentine 46 Upstanding 48 Cobra 51 Baptism 52 Tea leaf 54 Regulatory 56 Short weight 57 Street door 59 Peso 61 Exemplar 63 Monotonous 65 Shorten 67 Zebra 69 Educational 70 Ephemeris 72 Dormant 73 Brittle 74 Quadrennium 75 Three blind mice, see how they run

DOWN: 1 Woodpecker 2 Not on your life 3 Lifeless 4 Krons 5 Ankle-deep 6 Attract 7 Bonapartist 8 On the danger list 9 Hydraulic ram 10 Styrmie 11 Apple-pie order 12 Gestapo 13 Thing 14 Registrar General 22 Snorkel 25 America 26 Unwearying 29 Sterne 31 Supplicate 32 Strategist 34 Baronetage 37 Not to be sneezed at 40 Impressionistic 42 Untrue 44 Improve 45 Temperamental 47 Gallows 49 Border terrier 50 Factionalism 53 Forlornness 55 Cornishman 58 Desperado 60 Commence 64 Placate 64 Oblique 66 Durban 68 Barer 71 Herat



Peter Robinson, the deposed chief executive of the Woolwich, yesterday after returning to his Kent home

Ousted society chief back home

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

PETER ROBINSON, the deposed chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society, has come out of hiding and returned to his home in Brasted, Kent.

He continues to deny allegations of abuse of company facilities but is unlikely to make a more detailed defence until he has studied an external report into the allegations ordered by the Woolwich board. KPMG, the accountancy firm, and Linklaters & Paines, the law firm, are expected to deliver their confidential report in two weeks.

The allegations have included the use of building society gardeners, electricians and decorators for work at his luxury home. The Woolwich board said there had been a complete breakdown of confidence in Mr Robinson.

Yesterday the Woolwich sought to quash speculation that it is in merger talks aimed at strengthening its position after Mr Robinson's dismissal.

The society denied a report that it was about to enter into negotiations with Birmingham

Midshires and dismissed rumours that it was attempting to hire Mike Jackson, the widely respected chief executive of Midshires, to take Mr Robinson's job.

Mr Jackson said yesterday: "I have not had any talks with the Woolwich about mergers or the chief executive vacancy."

The leading internal candidate is John Stewart, opera-

tions director, who has led the society's business diversification, including setting up its telephone banking arm.

The Woolwich said it intended to proceed with its conversion plans and indicated that any merger or acquisition activity would follow the flotation, scheduled for next summer.

Speaking from his £450,000 home yesterday, Mr Robinson said: "I have spent the last

couple of days staying with friends in the area on the advice of my solicitor."

"I'm not really able to comment on any allegations made against me because I have not seen anything in writing and it is only then that I will consider any response. But, meanwhile, I would like to say I deprecate this smear campaign which is going on against me."

Rentokil set to raise BET bid

By CARL MORTISHED

RENTOKIL is expected to top up its bid for BET this week with a 10p sweetener aimed at swaying loyal shareholders away from the services group headed by John Clark. Rentokil has until Friday to raise its offer but the market is expecting only a small increase from the pest control and security services group headed by Clive Thompson.

Rentokil's mixed share and cash offer values a BET share at 206p, a penny less than the

closing price last Thursday. BET has mounted a robust defence but its efforts have failed to capture the imagination of investors.

However, last week the bid battle came alive with a complaint to the Takeover Panel by BET, who alleged that market rumours that BET was under pressure from its major shareholders to enter into merger talks had been instigated by the Rentokil camp. Rentokil denies it is the source

of the rumours but the Takeover Panel is believed to be conducting inquiries.

Earlier in the week, Rentokil ridiculed a revised £146 million profit estimate from BET, which followed a forecast of £142 million, issued a fortnight earlier.

Rentokil may wait until the last minute to announce its increase in the hope that sales from nervous BET shareholders may depress the share price.

Head of Cookson gets £1.7m pay package

By MARTIN BARROW

RICHARD OSTER, head of Cookson, the electronic materials and ceramics group, became one of the UK's best-paid chief executives last year when he earned a total of £1.73 million. Total remuneration, which compared with earnings of £1.35 million in the previous 12 months, included a basic salary of £581,032 and bonuses of £929,221.

The annual report also shows another two directors received substantial pay increases. Donald Carciari and Stephen Howard, who act as joint group managing directors, were paid £934,628 and £898,597 respectively, compared with £674,860 and £662,714 in the previous 12 months.

During the year when the company achieved a 50 per cent rise in profits before tax and exceptional items to £181.5 million, the company paid a

total of £4.93 million to its directors, a sharp increase from £3.5 million in the previous year. In addition, Cookson contributed £981,260 to their pensions. Mr Oster also received 416,468 share options during the year, with a market

value of £104,000. The average exercise price is 281p, compared with a current price of 310p. At the year-end Mr Oster held options on shares with a total market value of £3.3 million.

Mr Oster and the joint managing directors, who are all US citizens, are on three-year rolling contracts, an arrangement that has attracted criticism during the current debate on corporate governance. However, the company says it is "not in the best interests of shareholders" to seek to renegotiate the notice periods.

Last year Ray Sharpe, vice-president of Cookson America, received \$479,520 in compensation for the cancellation of a third year of notice which was provided in his contract before he became a director.



Oster: share options

Wall Street braced for delayed shock

US job figures to hit shares

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WALL STREET is today braced for significant initial losses as the American stock market has its first chance to react to Friday's stronger than expected employment figures for March.

The figures, which showed that 140,000 jobs had been created outside the farm sector last month, appeared to confirm that the American economic recovery is alive and well and that there is no need for further interest rate cuts.

Although continuing health

in economic growth should be positive for corporate profits and the stock market, Wall Street is still likely to react to the fallout in the US Treasury bond market on Friday, when the benchmark long bond fell by nearly two percentage points, taking its yield to 6.84 per cent from 6.66 per cent at Thursday's close.

The New York Stock Exchange, which was closed on Friday, reopens today, but British markets will not be able to react to developments in the US until traders return to work tomorrow.

The 140,000 gain in non-

farm payrolls added to a revised increase of 624,000 in February. The February figure was revised down from the 705,000 rise originally reported, which sent American stocks and bonds into a tailspin.

□ The latest Merrill Lynch Gallup survey of British fund managers showed that 85 per cent of those surveyed expect an improvement in Britain's general economic situation over the coming year. Some 61 per cent expect inflation to be higher in a year's time, with 39 per cent expecting base rates to be rising in a year.

Apax offer considered by Signet

Signet is believed to be considering an offer by Apax Partners, the venture capital group, to acquire its H Samuel and Ernest Jones retail jewellery chains for about £300 million. The Apax plan is to merge both chains with Goldsmiths, the stock market listed jewellery group.

Goldsmiths, capitalised at about £63 million, has made a separate offer to acquire Signet's UK businesses, but would be ready to consider its involvement in another bid.

The combined group would have a market share of about 22 per cent.

Other bidders are believed to include Gerald Ratner, who established Signet in the 1980s under the Ratners name.

Opec tour

Amar Makhloofi, president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and Rihwan Lukman, the secretary-general, arrive in Saudi Arabia today, as part of a tour of Gulf Opec states seeking support for a new quota system for Opec and to prepare for Iraq's eventual return to the world oil market. Iraqi and United Nations officials are due to hold further talks in New York today on a limited oil-for-food sales plan.

BCCI appeal

Lawyers for former officials of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, which collapsed in 1991, yesterday began closing arguments in an appeal in Abu Dhabi against jail terms and civil damages of about \$9 billion. Defence lawyers appealed against the 1994 sentences while prosecutors are appealing against a single not guilty verdict.

N&P vote

The future of the National & Provincial Building Society will be sealed on Thursday when its members meet at the Nynex arena, Manchester, to vote on the £1.35 billion takeover bid by Abbey National. Of the 1.4 million savers and borrowers entitled to vote, most have already done so by post.

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MUSICALS

Broadway star Mandy Patinkin makes his British stage debut performing show tunes at the Almeida

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CABARET

Mulling it over

Denny Laine

Cafe Royal

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BOOKS

John Betjeman's writings on the Church are published in a new edition illustrated by Paul Hogarth

IN THE SHOPS: Now

REVIEW: Thursday

FILM

More wit and wisdom as life meets art in Woody Allen's latest snappy comedy, *Mighty Aphrodite*

OPENS: Friday

REVIEW: Thursday

MUSIC

The South Bank begins a massive month-long celebration of a giant of avant-gardism, Harrison Birtwistle

OPENS: Friday

REVIEW: Monday

POP

From 10,000 Maniacs to solo stardom: Natalie Merchant brings her alternative rock to Shepherds Bush

GIG: Saturday

REVIEW: Next week

ARTS

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

IN SECTION 2

TELEVISION: Andy Lavender on final editing of the great controversialist's last two surreal dramas

Dennis Potter: the parting shots

It is already billed as one of the most significant events in modern television drama. *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus* were the last works to be written by Dennis Potter, one of Britain's most original television dramatists, who completed them after being told that he had cancer and had only three months to live. With a gallows grin, he persuaded BBC1 and Channel 4 to collaborate on the serials, which will be transmitted on both channels later this spring in an unprecedented display of respect.

Potter's final works, written through pain and against the clock, may prove to be his most impressive. The director, Renny Rye, will come in for his share of praise or condemnation — not least because Potter stipulated that he should be given the job after directing the writer's *Lipstick on Your Collar* and *Midnight Movie*. So will Albert Finney, who plays the central character, Daniel Feeld, in both serials. But let us turn to the other, hidden hands currently shaping the destiny of both dramas.

Amid the fluster of commentary, nobody will mention Clare Douglas. This will not be unusual — after all, how many film editors' names can you drop? Nonetheless, it will be an oversight of some proportion. Even a dramatist as good as Dennis Potter needs someone to join all the bits together. Film editors are like the girders in a building: invisible but indispensable. Without girders, you have a mass of bricks and timber. Without editors, you just have reels of film. Every drama that you watch, whether on television or in the cinema, has been comprehensively edited. Every time there is a cut from one shot to another, an editor's hand has made the decision.

Editors are the secret conductors of a drama. They shape its movements and its flow. Our responses are guided, too, by the editing: by the sheer adrenalin of fast-cutting from one shot to another, or by the soothing lull of a cross-fade between two images.

"I went to the cinema once with some friends, who came out feeling uncomfortable with the film without knowing why," says Douglas. "I could see that it was because it had been badly edited."

Douglas trained as a film editor with the BBC and still prefers her traditional blade and adhesive tape to the buttons of modern digital technology. She first met Potter when she edited his complex and apparently disjointed four-part serial *Blackeyes*. She went freelance to work on Potter's subsequent dramas and is just putting the



Posthumous Potter with a sci-fi touch: Carmen Ejogu, Ganiat Kasumu, Ciaran Hinds and Frances de la Tour in a scene from *Cold Lazarus*, which begins in May

“The central character's head has been frozen and a group of scientists manages to thaw out his memories”

finishing touches to *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*.

Karaoke is set in 1994, the year of Potter's death. Its central character is a writer who is at the post-production stage with a film he has scripted. The resonances are layer upon layer — Daniel Feeld has been told that he has terminal cancer, his film is about a writer.

Cold Lazarus is set 374 years later. Feeld's head has been frozen and a group of scientists succeeds in thawing out his memories. The two dramas form a devilishly quick-witted double about creativity, memory and the exploitation of people's ideas.

The scientists in *Cold Lazarus* watch Feeld's memories emerge on an extraordinary screen of images that swirl and undulate as if they were reflected on water. "Dennis talked about a living wall, about blobs metamorphosing into shapes," says Renny Rye. This effect is built through three shots

towards the "living wall" and passes into the "memory" like Alice going through the looking glass. "Better than *Doctor Who*," says Gravit.

So much for the fancy stuff. But editors also give shape to the more ordinary sequences — and even here, theirs is a peculiarly subtle art. Clare Douglas shows me a sequence in which one of the scientists, played by Ciaran Hinds, arrives late for the memory screening. He has been involved in a murder. Earlier in the scene there

has been a cutaway shot to one of the scientists standing towards the back of the laboratory.

"At this stage there is a feeling that she may be a government spy," says Douglas, "so we are starting to make her appear isolated from the others."

The possible spy asks a question of Hinds. As he replies, the image instead shows his colleague, played by Frances de la Tour, observing anxiously. "I realised that this expression was more interesting," says Douglas.

You are looking for all those little reactions between people. With Dennis's writing, there is so much in the scripts that you start thinking about the various layers of meaning and how you might bring them out. A lot of it is instinct, your reaction to the nature of what you are seeing.

Film editors are connoisseurs of nuance. The best of them combine scrupulous precision with powerful

intuition. "You put the shots together and something else comes out of it which you can't explain," says Douglas. "It is feeling the rhythms of the pictures themselves and of people's dialogue. There are different rhythms, and in the end you want a rhythm for the pictures that goes up and down and varies, just as speech does."

Potter adored the cutting room, says Rye. He would come in, metaphorically throw the film into the air and reassemble it.

Mindful of the writer's eagle-eyed ghost, the team working on *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus* are not quite so cavalier. Nonetheless, when the press is awash with talk of Potter, Finney and Rye, remember that there are other fingerprints, too, on the film.

● *Karaoke* begins on BBC1 on Sunday, April 28, repeated on Mondays on Channel 4. *Cold Lazarus* begins on Sunday, May 26 on Channel 4, repeated on Mondays on BBC1

From bad to worse

PROBABLY the worst movie director known to man, Ed Wood has posthumously become a star. Hollywood even made the poor guy's life into a film last year. Now, on tour around the country is a spoof stage musical of his most prized flop. In case you have forgotten, *Plan 9 From Outer Space* is the risible horror movie, cobbled together in 1956, in which grave-robbing aliens buzz Earth in what look suspiciously like flying hub-caps and the zombified dead rise from, surely, a garden shed.

This musical, by David G. Smith (plus some tinkering from the British production team), is pre-

Plan 9 From Outer Space

Queen's, Hornchurch

sumably hoping to land in the West End eventually. The cast includes Peter Straker as the commander of the invaders, here a glittering transvestite (with a glance at Wood's own wardrobe). Straker certainly shines in his sequins and stilettos. Adele Anderson, of Fascinating Aida, is in fine voice as Vampira, hitting alarmingly deep notes then rocketing to high walls. She looks fittingly wicked in her plunging black dress but does not seem relaxed in the role. This may be because co-directors Marina Calderone and Richard Hansom often seem almost as clueless about their art as dear old Wood.

The opening format suggests a cloning of *The Rocky Horror Show*. Criswell, our mock-spooky narrator, intones (not very wittily) in black tie. Cue, the squeaky-clean 1950s couple, Paula and Jeff, caught up in a lightning storm with dracs and cross-dressers round the corner. Meanwhile, the songs often merely plunder other people's tunes in the name of pastiche. There is welcome variety — Berlin cabaret, country and western, whatever — but the lyrics are cheap. The catchiest numbers are narratively irrelevant.

There are certainly amusing moments when the show is knowingly clumsy. Criswell's revolving booth subjects him to unwanted jerks. A mention of aliens from "up there" is punctuated by everyone suddenly gawking at the ceiling. Frequently though, this live show is just uncomfortably technically iffy in its own right. Cast as our trusty Jeff, Luke Goss (formerly of Bros) just stands around with his legs apart looking stiffly self-conscious when he is meant to be sending up the original something rotten.

KATE BASSETT

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

MOZART'S SYMPHONY NO 29

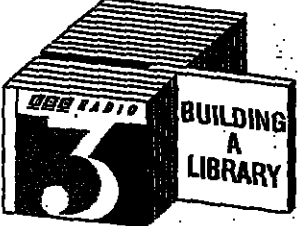
Reviewed by Richard Osborne

With its beguiling mix of sense and sensibility, Mozart's Symphony No 29 is his first undisputed symphonic masterpiece. He was 18 when he completed it in Salzburg in 1774. Scored for oboes, horns and strings, the symphony has the bloom of youth on it and yet it is also superbly crafted, written with a tautness and intensity that points forward to the later symphonies.

Early LP recordings have not worn well. Many are too slow, several are poorly played, others have been wretchedly transferred to CD. Some of the period-instrument recordings from the early 1980s also sound rather dated now, with husky string tone and the pedantic use of a clattery harpsichord continuo that is quite alien to the sound of this symphony.

The best of the older recordings is Guido Cantelli's 1955 HMV version with the Philharmonia Orchestra. It is a gem of a performance, by turns gracious and urbane, trenchant and intense. The recording is excellent, and in stereo, part of a two-CD budget-price set in EMI's *Artist Profile* series (EMI CZS 5 8217-2).

Benjamin Britten's searching and stylish 1971 Decca recording with the English Chamber Orchestra also comes in a two-CD set. There is a certain brooding Romanti-



cism about Britten's later Mozart recordings, especially in the slow movements, which will alienate self-styled "authenticists"; but it is difficult to imagine a Mozart performance that would not be enriched by these records.

This budget-price Double Decca set (444 323-2) (£14.95), also includes Mozart's two G minor symphonies and his *Prague Symphony*.

Finding a recommendable budget-price version on a single CD is more difficult, but Jean-Pierre Rampal's recording with the Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra on Harmonia Mundi (HMP 390303) is first-rate, a very gallant performance, game and expressive in the Beecham style. But the best of the single CDs is undoubtedly Sir Charles Mackerras's with the Prague Chamber Orchestra on a well-filled, full-price Telarc CD which also includes Symphonies 25 and 28 (CD 80165). Musically, Mackerras gives us everything we could possibly want: all the repeats, divided fiddles, the merest hint of harpsichord continuo and, above all, real affection, real drama.



Boulez: meticulous and supple signals

Vernon Handley has a deserved reputation for getting to the heart of Romantic music, and as associate conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra he earned accolade from his players as well as the audience after an uncommonly assured performance of Rachmaninov's Second Symphony on Thursday night. The music wears its heart on its sleeve, no doubt, but on this occasion the conductor was not so much in pursuit of its essential Russian soul as concerned with the nature of its Russian emotional drama.

In a relatively short programme of about 80 minutes of music overall, he might have allowed us the extra five or six minutes it takes to repeat the exposition of subject-matter in the first movement, and so point more strongly the sense of epic scale, but perhaps Handley was reluctant to labour its content. Instead he expressed its strength of purpose in the relationship of melodic character to harmonic direction.

CONCERTS: The 1950s revisited; assured Rachmaninov

Omens, signs and wonders

The Purcell Room was packed with many a grey-haired music-lover on Wednesday night for a trip down memory lane. The South Bank's 1950s festival focused on two classics by Pierre Boulez and Hans Werner Henze, and with a comet up above and a lunar eclipse about to take place, it seemed a properly auspicious evening for the event.

The London Sinfonietta's choice of *Le marteau sans maître* (1952-54) and *Kammermusik 1958* was vindicated in performances of revelatory clarity and intensity. Here were two "settings" of poetry for voice and chamber ensemble, yet as different from each other as can be imagined.

Boulez "sets" the allusive, surreal poetry of René Char: Henze the discursive philosophising of Friedrich Hölder-

London Sinfonietta/Stenz Purcell Room

ling. Boulez creates a maze of reference between instrumental preludes, interludes and song as three poems twist through their "settings" and their instrumental commentaries. Henze is content with what is basically a conventional song-cycle format: a dozen settings interspersed with solo instrumental and ensemble interludes. But here, too, there is cross-reference, verbal and musical, though more for the ear than the mind.

Boulez, in his meticulously selected and supple signals for a group of instruments restricted in register (alto flute, viola, guitar, vibraphone, plus xylophone and violin) creates a chaste abstraction of response, throwing into relief

the passionate utterances of the human voice. Fiona Kimm was a powerful wordsmith — until the words began to crack and break under the burden, and the voice drifts into vocalise before surrendering to the breath of the flute and the brush of a cymbal.

In Henze, the word holds fast. Now surely, in forceful declamation, now in sensuous, Italianate melisma, the tenor of John Graham-Hall relished each thought and image, with solo guitar (Steven Smith) and an octet of string and wind players amplifying expression and focusing attention. In his programme note, Henze, old romantic that he is, shamelessly even uses the word "depict" to describe the activity of the midway instrumental "Sonata". Markus Stenz conducted both works with lucidity, passion and a true sense of élan.

HILARY FINCH

Directing a Russian drama

RPO/Handley Albert Hall

In the muscular vivacity of the following Scherzo movement, and an Adagio that restored self-respect to the kind of music that was hijacked by an entire generation of Hollywood composers for its sentiment alone, this performance drew on a high degree of instrumental accomplishment. Pru Whittaker's first clarinet earned her a separate call at the

end, perhaps also as a token for the eloquent contributions from fellow players around her.

Not the least of Handley's skill was in securing a consistent balance of texture and colour, as he also did previously in relation to the solo playing of Steven Isserlis in Elgar's Cello Concerto, which bids fair to survive its status as a musical icon of our time. Isserlis was an unusually reticent soloist by comparison with some others' approach to this work but he lacked nothing in dignity of feeling.

At times in the middle movements, including the haunting Adagio, he seemed so withdrawn as to diminish the work's central focus in the solo writing, but it generated a poignancy of spirit that left the listener in its debt for the beauty of phrase with which Elgar subsumed his sorrow as well as his affection for all that meant most to him.

NOEL GOODWIN

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The solving of a famous conundrum will lead to new challenges, says Marcus du Sautoy

Is this solution the end of maths?

My lady, take Fermat into the music room. There will be an extra spoonful of jam if you find his proof. Tom Stoppard in his play *Arcadia* is just one of many who have helped to immortalise Fermat's Last Theorem as the Greatest Unsolved Problem of Mathematics.

But last month in Jerusalem, it was Andrew Wiles, and not *Arcadia*'s Thomasina, who was claiming that spoonful of jam. His solution of Fermat's Last Theorem was rewarded in the Knesset (Israel's parliament) with one of mathematics' highest accolades, the Wolf prize worth £66,000, which he shares with his colleague at Princeton, Robert Langlands.

Fermat conjectured that, if n is a number bigger than 2, you will never be able to find three whole numbers such that the n th power of the first is the sum of the n th powers of the other two. Or, for those with a head for equations, that $x^n + y^n = z^n$ has no solution where x , y and z are whole numbers. Wiles explains the appeal of Fermat's problem: "Here was a problem that I, a ten-year-old, could understand, but none of the great mathematicians had been able to resolve. From that moment I tried to solve it myself."

The legendary status of the problem comes, though, from Fermat's tantalising marginal note, probably the biggest provocation in the history of mathematics. "I have a wonderful proof of this fact which the margin is too small to contain."

Centuries of searching for Fermat's proof unearthed quantities of mathematical treasures but Fermat's gem remained hidden. Perhaps *Arcadia*'s Thomasina was right: "The note in the margin is a joke to make you all mad." With time it became something of a sideline. That is until the mid-Eighties when it became inextricably linked with a much more modish part of mathematics — elliptic curves.



Emma Fielding, as Tom Stoppard's Thomasina

Ken Ribet, of the University of Berkeley, showed that Fermat would follow from a conjecture about elliptic curves named after two Japanese mathematicians, Taniyama and Shimura. It was armed with this information that Wiles dedicated seven years to settling enough of Taniyama-Shimura to yield

computer, surely mathematics must have all been worked out by now. So is that the end of mathematics?

This perception of mathematics could not be further from the truth. The subject is full of open problems, some of which are much older than Fermat, others which are very new. While Wiles is being honoured for the end of a story, his fellow prizewinner, Robert Langlands, is being rewarded for an inspired new problem. In mathematics, this sort of vision is often more important than proof.

The Langlands Programme, as his vision is called, proposes to unify two seemingly different areas of mathematics — arithmetic and symmetry. It provides some sort of dictionary, translating one into another.

The Taniyama-Shimura conjecture, which Wiles partially proved, is itself just a small part of this programme. His vision is so deep that a proof will probably not be seen in our lifetime and will certainly be a worthy successor to Fermat for stimulating new ideas and research.

But the problem most mathematicians would trade their soul with Mephistopheles for

a proof has to be the Riemann Hypothesis. It is a far greater goal for mathematics than Fermat. Even if Mephistopheles was to provide an unimpeachable proof, the understanding that Riemann's conjecture would give us about prime numbers is immense.

The famous Cambridge mathematician G.H. Hardy almost provided the Riemann Hypothesis with a story to equal Fermat's cryptic note in the margin. On a rough sea crossing, fearing for his life, he sent a joke telegram saying he had found a wonderful proof. The ship, however, did not sink.

Although mathematicians are quite happy to explain Fermat at a dinner party, the Riemann hypothesis is a little

bit more indigestible. Here, though, for those with a strong stomach, is a flavour of what it says. The prime numbers are the indivisible building blocks of all numbers, yet their properties remain deeply mysterious. Two thousand years ago Euclid showed there were infinitely many primes.

This year we celebrate a hundred years of knowing what proportion of all numbers are prime numbers. But if you look at a list of primes there really seems to be no nice pattern. It all looks like random noise.

Around 1740, Euler identified a function (now called the Riemann zeta function) which allowed you to understand all

prime numbers in one go. A function is like a computer — you feed a number in, it calculates away and gives you a number out.

Those numbers which output zero are in some sense the harmonics of this function. It is these harmonics which tell you all about prime numbers. Riemann conjectured what these harmonics look like. If true, it could imply that the music of the primes is far from being just noise.

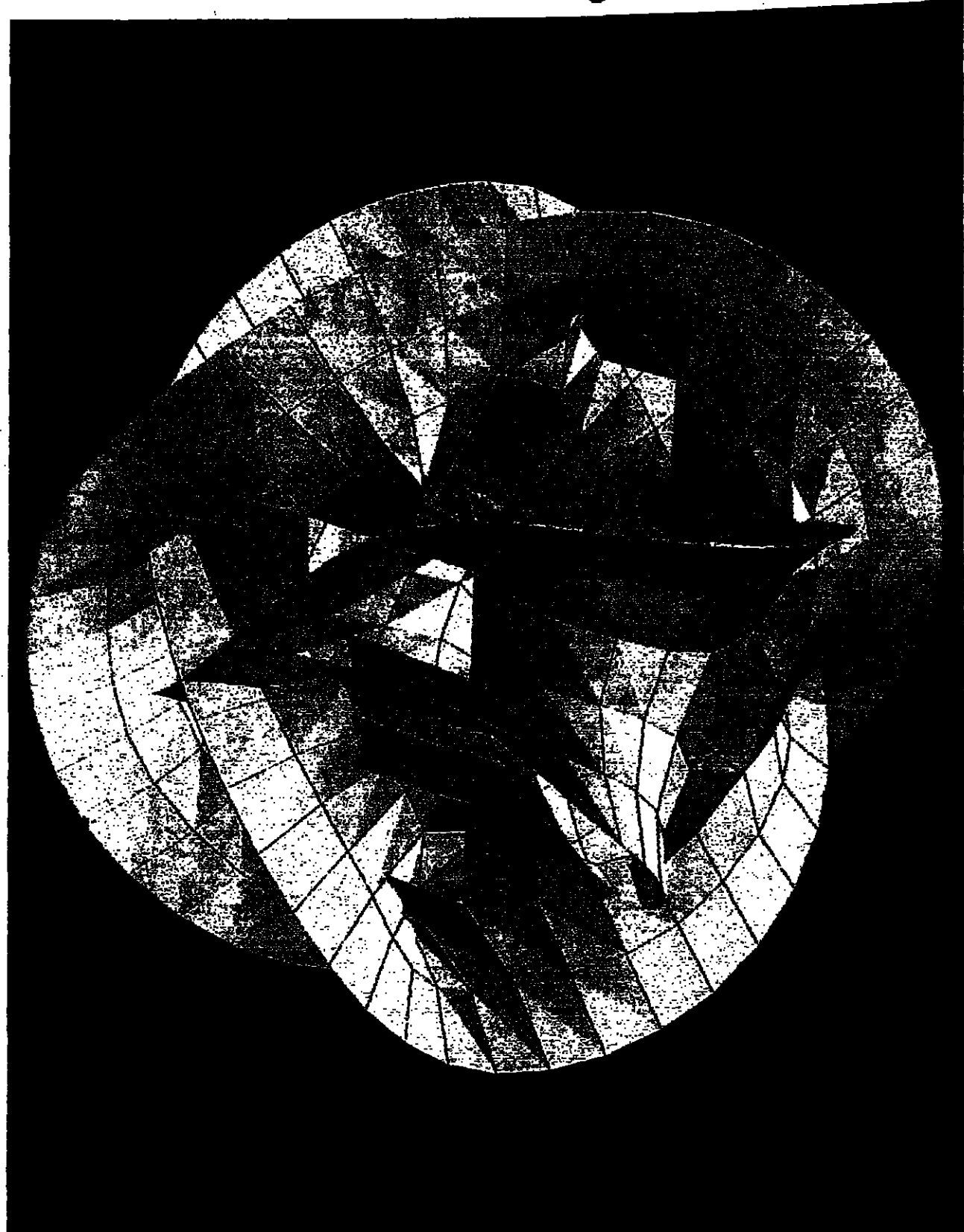
But both Langlands Programme and the Riemann Hypothesis are far too complicated ever to capture the public imagination as mathematics' new Great Unsolved Problem. Perhaps as the solver of Fermat it is up to Andrew Wiles to throw down the

gaunt let for the next generation.

"There's no other problem that will mean the same to me," he says. But Wiles does suggest as a candidate perhaps the oldest unsolved problem in mathematics, the so-called Problem of Congruent Numbers. It is simple to state and a child can start playing round with ideas. Yet it relates to deep questions of arithmetic and has resisted centuries of attack.

Perhaps a snappier name and some cryptic marginal notes by the likes of Andrew Wiles and it could find its way into the public imagination.

● Dr Marcus du Sautoy is a Royal Society University Research Fellow at the Department of Pure Mathematics in Cambridge.



A three-dimensional solution to Fermat's Last Theorem: the Riemann Hypothesis is the next great problem

Artists from the depths

Anjana Ahuja on early man's sunken studio

THE Cosquer cave was discovered by Henri Cosquer, a deep-sea diver, in 1985 at the foot of a cliff at Cape Morgiou, near Marseilles. News of the magnificent collection of prehistoric art it contained spread quickly, drawing widespread media attention around the world.

Jean Clottes and Jean Courtin, two archaeologists who studied the cave in subsequent diving missions, have just published a complete record of what they found (*The Cave Beneath the Sea*, Abrams, £45). Looking beyond the beautiful pictures, the book is a tale of exploration, mistrust and controversy. Several experts claimed the cave was a fake, angering the elite assembled to investigate it. The dangers of exploring undersea caverns provided an added, grim allure — three divers died trying to find it.

THE engravings and paintings inside it include eerie images of stencilled human hands. Animals also feature heavily, including horses, ibex (wild goat) and chamois (goat antelope), and there are unusual depictions of sea creatures such as seal, fish and jellyfish. The animals are patterned with rectangles, zigzags and spears.

The artists executed their handiwork in two distinct eras, 27,000 years ago and 18,500 years ago, according to dating carried out using charcoal found lying on the cave floor.

The 490-ft entrance to the Palaeolithic (early Stone Age) cave became submerged at the end of the last Ice Age, 12,000 years ago, preserving what seems to have been a primitive studio and ceremonial site rather than a place to live.

Divers also found the remains of burnt logs, which were probably used to illuminate the cave while the prehistoric artists worked.

When information should be open to all □ Danger beneath our feet □ Light on the way birds see

HOW WOULD YOU FIND OUT ABOUT EDUCATION POLICY WITHOUT THE TES?



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TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

THE gene-sequencers ought to be enjoying themselves. After years of promising great results, they are beginning to deliver. The complete genetic sequence of baker's yeast, listing every DNA base, has just been completed, by a team at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. But they have announced that the final fifth of the sequence will not be made public until the end of this month.

They feel that having done the work, they ought to have at least the first chance of exploiting it. But the world's two big sequencing laboratories, Britain's Sanger Centre in Cambridge and Washington University in St Louis, take the opposite view. They argue that sequence data is basic information that should be published as soon as it is available, so that everybody can have an equal chance of taking advantage of it.

The policy is questioned in *Nature* by a team from the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University, who show that Japanese and American companies have been much quicker to exploit

this information than British or European ones.

Of the 1,175 patents so far granted for human DNA sequences, most are owned by Japanese or American companies, report Dr Sandy Thomas and colleagues. More than 70 per cent of the human gene patents issued by the European Patent Office are in Japanese or American hands.

Dr Thomas says that Britain's policy of open access means that the country could lose out, as it has in the past. She cites the case of the breast cancer gene BRCA2, now the subject of a patent battle between the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, Surrey, and the American company Myriad Genetics, of Salt Lake City.

Both are claiming to have

been first to identify a use for the gene, which gives women who carry it a far greater risk of getting breast cancer. Myriad Genetics filed its patent for the gene after the DNA sequence was put on the Internet by the Sanger Centre.

Though Myriad has denied that it was this data which put it on the Internet, it could certainly have been helpful. The irony is that the DNA came originally from the Institute of Cancer Research. This means that material from one British laboratory,



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

sequenced at another, could have provided a distant company with a valuable patent.

"It raises interesting questions," says Dr Thomas. She says the Government's policy of wealth creation through basic science "sits uncomfortably" with the fact that an American company is able to file for a patent through publicly funded research in Britain.

Dr Richard Wooster, of the Sutton team, believes that the Sanger data was helpful to everybody. "Myriad got an

advantage, but so did we," he says.

The Sutton team identified a length of DNA containing about a million "bases" within which the BRCA2 gene lay. But to get any closer they needed the full sequence of the bases, which the Sanger Centre was better equipped to obtain. "It would take them a couple of months, while it might have taken us a year," says Dr Wooster.

Once the complete sequence was available on the Internet, it was easier for both the Sutton and the Myriad groups to identify the 10,000 or so bases that make up the gene, and to devise a use for it to make it patentable. Possible uses include a screening test for women who carry the gene, and long-term therapeutic possibilities, both of which

are covered in the Myriad claim.

The open access policy is defended by Dr David Owen, of the Medical Research Council, which supports the Sanger Centre jointly with the Wellcome Trust.

"When it is just a gene sequence, the best place for it is in the public domain," he says. "The more people who know about it, the more likely it will be put to good use."

The Wellcome Trust recently organised a meeting in Bermuda to thrash out the issue. Participants agreed that fast data release is desirable, but not everybody believes that it is possible. Many expect that the Belgian approach will be followed by others, particularly in Germany. Japan is already very cagey with its data, Dr Thomas says.

The problem is, she says, that America has many more companies alert to the commercial opportunities of gene sequences. "Given that Britain and Europe have a weak position, it is vital that we develop better mechanisms to protect our interests."

Radon belt discovered

NA STUDY by the British Geological Survey has shown that houses far from the granite regions of South West may suffer from high levels of radon, the radioactive gas that seeps up from the ground.

Measurements made by the National Radiological Protection Board have enabled the BGS team to identify another belt, running roughly from Lyme Bay to Hull, where

radon levels are high. The culprit is not granite, but carboniferous limestone, which is also found in Bristol and parts of Wales.

The limestone does not contain as much uranium — which decays to produce radon — as does granite, but it is more dispersed, so more radon reaches the atmosphere. Drawn up through the foundations of houses, it can reach levels that the NRPB believes increase the risks of cancer.

Dr Donald Appleton, of the BGS, says that the risk from limestone declines towards the North, as the amounts of shale increase. The risk also depends on what is deposited on top of the limestone.

Through a bird's eye

BIRDS are often wonderfully coloured, but to each other they may be more vivid still. In an ingenious series of experiments, a team from Bristol and Regensburg universities has shown that zebra finches use the ability to see in the ultraviolet when they are choosing mates.

They put a female in a square cage, surrounded on all four sides by cages containing males, each of which could

be shown to the female one at a time by moving baffles. Transparent filters controlled the wavelength of the light seen by the female, whose reaction was measured by how vigorously she hopped about when face to face with each of the males.

The result, reported in *Nature*, is that the ultraviolet light at wavelengths between 300 and 400 nanometres was indeed important, and probably contributed to the female's colour perception. Birds evidently do not see each other quite as we see them: maybe, suggest Dr Andrew Bennett and colleagues, ultraviolet is a special waveband used in avian signalling.

INDIA

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Grand maternal instincts

As she approaches 90, Elizabeth Longford, who has 26 grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, reflects on the pleasures of the extended family

MY FUTURE husband, then aged six, was present at a garden party given by his grandmother Lady Jersey in honour of Lord Kitchener. "And who are you, my little man?" asked the hero. Frank replied solemnly: "I am the grandson of Grandmama."

I have a feeling that grandparents are moving once more into the ascendant. This may be sheer conceit of course. But one is apt to feel on the map when one is grandparent to 12 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, 14 great-granddaughters and one step-grandson — excluded from the good relationship but by no means from the affections, five great-granddaughters and two great-grandsons, with two more great-grandchildren on the way.

This roll-call would have been nothing special in the Victorian age when grandmothers were the prop of countless households, both poor and rich. To the poor they were unpaid nannies and to the rich they became voluntary psychiatric consultants. Queen Victoria quarrelled furiously with her own mother, but when she died, Victoria felt that she was irreplaceable in her role of grandmother to the royal children: no one else could be relied on to show the same interest in every one of them. Victoria herself was widely admired as the "Grandmother of Europe".

Immediately after the Second World War, I wondered what future remained for the larger family with its outcasts — aunts, uncles, grandmothers and great-grandmothers. When our eighth child was born a letter arrived saying I was breeding like a rabbit and ought to know better. Mr Nasty raged about having to contribute as a bachelor taxpayer to my Family Allowance. Nor had myxomatosis yet arrived to cheer him up.

Half a century later a volume arrives in our bookshops which will put Mr Nasty in his place, and the family in its place, along with those guardians of hearth and home, the grandparents.

Dr Joan Gomez's *You and Your Grandchild* (Bloomsbury) is a miracle of comprehensiveness, compression and wisdom, illustrated by plenti-

ful anecdotes. I thoroughly enjoyed this grandmotherly saga, even though in several ways it outstripped my experiences and in other ways has been outdistanced by them. To start with, Dr Gomez's typical grandmother is round about 50 and seems to have only one or two grandchildren.

To me, being a great-grandmother means something less cosy and rather more dinosaurian than Dr Gomez's portrait. I am about to be 90, my eldest grandchild being 39 and eldest great-grandchild, Stella, eight. That means they have a real acquaintance with extreme old age. I remember one of the three-year-old grandchildren asking, "Granny, why is your hand cracked?" If she had asked why my brain was cracked I would have understood. But then I realised that she had been examining my intricate web of wrinkles. So a lecture followed on why Mummy's hand is smooth but Granny's is wrinkled, illustrated by the old and young bark of trees. Another three-year-old grandchild was much taken with my white hair, studying its texture and lightness. I think he hoped it would taste like candyfloss.

Blanche, when a four-year-old great-grandchild, and her sister Atlanta both took immense pleasure in the very name of "Great-Granny", and would always hail me in loud chorus with strong emphasis on the "great". Actually I came to suspect that Blanche thought great meant unutterably old — like Father William in Alice. As any rate, while "interviewing" her for a book about grandchildren, I asked her: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Blanche replied promptly: "I want to be a normal person." Surprised and highly amused, her mother and I assumed she must be echoing a grown-up phrase she had picked — but maybe she knew the meaning of "normal" all too well, especially in so far as it did not include the idea of extreme old age.

As for the now generally acclaimed magic that grandmothers of whatever age can work within the family, I heartily subscribe to its existence. For instance, our reminiscences can put their



Gathering of the clan: (back row, left to right) Orlando Fraser, Harry Pakenham, Richard Pakenham, Guy Pakenham; (middle row) Benjamin Fraser holding Eliza Fraser, Maria Pakenham, Rose Billington, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Flora Fraser, Eliza Chisholm; (front row) Hermione Pakenham holding Thomas Fraser, Blanche Fitzgerald, Stella Powell-Jones holding William Fraser, Ben Pakenham and Dominic Pakenham. Photograph by Chris Harris

problems in perspective; but we must not overdo the "I remember", since teenage grandchildren in particular want to talk about themselves, and rightly so. At a certain stage, the young need as many confidantes as they can get.

I must end with a delightful reversal of roles. In my ninetieth year it is my grandchildren who help me, instead of vice versa. "Granny, mind this step. Granny, I've done some shopping for you. Here are the jacket potatoes, soup, salad, smoked salmon (a special treat), grapes." After I tripped and fell on an uneven pavement, they all rallied round. And my grandson-in-law turned up to cook our dinner: chops in a celestial sauce eaten to the accompaniment of tales from Moscow. Who would not be an antique granny with such compensations?

THE grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Elizabeth Longford are united in praise of her qualities and proud of her treasured role in the life of their family. In our brief opinion poll, this is what they had to say about her:

Back row, left to right
Orlando Fraser: "Her goodness shines out. She's always interested in whatever you are doing. She's simply glorious and adorable."

Harry Pakenham: "The thing that's special about her is her enthusiasm for people and life. It seems more typical of someone who is nine rather than 90. I hope I am as lucky in love as grandpa."

Richard Pakenham: "She gives equal love to all her grandchildren, whether she sees them once a

WHY MY GRANDMOTHER IS SO SPECIAL

week or every few months. There's no favouritism. And, even now, she still takes the children up the road to get sweets."

Guy Pakenham: "I have never met someone so interested in other people. I am about to get married and my fiancée was much more interested in granny than I thought granny would be in her. It turned out to be the other way round!"

Middle row, left to right
Benjamin Fraser: "She represents a golden age of grannies. She is so young at heart, so exciting and energetic. She also gives a very good impression of being immortal. She can communicate with all her grandchildren."

Maria Pakenham: "She is not a traditional mums-and-dads granny — she's more interested in talking to you than knitting you jumpers. She is incredibly tolerant and witty, and encourages you whatever your talents are."

Rose Billington: "She has enormous energy and vibrancy, and amazing powers of concentration. She listens very carefully to what you say and always has an original and fascinating reply to hand. She doesn't just fling out comments left, right and centre."

Rebecca Fitzgerald: "She loves babies, adores children and spots the tiniest things that only a besotted mother would notice. She is incredibly warm and celebratory,

and a thrilling person to talk to."

Flora Fraser: "She has a great enthusiasm for all her grandchildren's projects and a tremendous enthusiasm for all her descendants."

And the great-grandchildren...
Ben Pakenham (front row, second from right): "You can talk to her about any subject. She knows a lot about music which is good, because I play the trumpet. I think I am closer to her than my friends are to their grannies."

Hermione Pakenham (front row, far left): "Granny joins in a lot of my school activities, like my poetry evening recently. She's quite active for her age and I love being with her."

ANJANA AHUJA

Giles Coren pays a visit to the Tate and discovers that the continentals do not share Hogarth's sense of humour



Detail from Hogarth's *O the Roast Beef of Old England* shows the painter at far left

FORGET Cézanne. The cognoscenti at the Tate Gallery these days are hanging around a picture painted 90 years before Paul was even a glimmer in his father's eye. And it is an English picture, at that. William Hogarth's *O the Roast Beef of Old England* has been the talking-point of the casual art world since interest in our cattle was renewed by the recent BSE panic. The Tate Gallery is laid out chronologically, and it is in room two, at the dawn of great English painting, that one encounters Hogarth and his revolutionary canvases, overpopulated, political and, above all, comical.

"Here is a great side of roast beef," says a tour guide, "used to symbolise English superiority over the French at the time of the Jacobite unrest. Look how the French chef buckles under the weight of it." She moves on to the next room to expound on Constable. But an elderly French gentleman loiters, suspicious, in the Hogarth enclosure.

"C'est pas du rosbif, ça," he says, scrutinising the meat. "C'est une côte de boeuf, bien sûr, mais c'est pas du rosbif."

HE IS bitter. For Hogarth, in the days before English beef lost its credibility, did not suffer Frenchies gladly. "Hogarth était... je sais pas le mot en français... euro-sceptic," supplies another young lady, a blue-badge guide and student of art history at Birkbeck College.

She explains that in 1748 William Hogarth, while waiting for a ferry, decided to sketch the gate of Calais, which was emblazoned with English coats of arms, the port having been, until relatively recently, an English possession. But he was

When France went mad for British beef

arrested as a spy, on suspicion of making illegal sketches of the fortifications, and this painting was his revenge. He himself stands far left, with the hand of a gendarme tapping his shoulder.

The vast side of beef is on its way to an English pub, *Le Lion d'Argent*, to be consumed by the expatriates who stood for no fancy foreign rubbish in those glorious days of the Whig ascendancy.

While the English eat their magnificent beef, the poverty-stricken French can only oggle it. A failed, monk clearly covets it too, symbolising the hypocrisy and greed of the French clergy.

"But look at the people's faces," says a middle-aged German tourist called Matthew Hauser. "They are clearly mad. They have all caught 'mad cow' disease, and the halberdier is telling

the beef smuggler to take his dirty meat back to England." Upstairs Teuton laughter follows, but the guide has another theory.

"Hogarth hated foreigners," she explains. "He was trying to forge a path for a new English style, and anything foreign was anathema to him. There is a self-portrait in the National Gallery, which also shows his dog urinating on a collection of

foreign paintings. Here, the beef is integral to English supremacy."

"Je mange pas ça, moi," says an old Frenchman. And several Gallic heads shake their concurrence.

The guide is unruffled. "The French have always laughed at this picture," she says. "The meat is more fatty and marbled than the cuts of today, but that is probably because it predates intensive farming, and is the way our beef would be now if it were not for selective breeding and hormone injections. What makes them laugh is the idea, BSE or no BSE, that the French should be depicted as covetous of any English cuisine at all."

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Matthew Parris



The Catholic Church is losing its grip in Latin America, to a faith that encourages the individual — at last

From this vantage point, the whole of the eastern part of Lake Titicaca lies stretched out at my feet. The sky and the lake seem to meet, glowing blue. The place feels enchanted. I am sitting on the flat roof of the *Residencial of the Empire of the Sun*, a tiny boarding house at the top of this village, which nestles beneath the ridge of the Island of the Sun. We are 1,000 ft above the lake. The island is an anciently sacred to the culture of the Andes. Pre-Incan empires believed their deities were born here. The Incan civilisation, conquering them, cannily discovered that its deity, the Sun himself, had come to Earth here, bridging Heaven and Earth, and in human form, founding the dynasty of the Incas.

Then the *Conquistadors* of the Incas, the Spaniards, announced that a wood carving of the Virgin Mary, carved by an Indian craftsman, was divinely inspired. The Catholics founded a great church just across the water from the island, at a village called Copacabana to honour this image of Mary. Later it became the Patron of Bolivia. Crowds flocked to Copacabana to pray for blessings, and Christen their cars and lorries by the waters of the lake, to bring them luck on the roads.

Intercessions for blessings take the form of laying at a hilltop altar small replicas of the bountiful for which the supplicant hopes. The kiosks around the church sell Matchbox Mercedes, tiny model houses, and miniature American dollars to place there. The Catholic Church permits this, although it well knows that the ritual has roots in the pagan Indian custom of bringing miniatures to its own god of plenty.

But Catholicism in the Andes is fighting for its life. As a backpacking traveller, I blunder in apologetically to a subject which is doubtless much discussed in religious journals — and I shall surely err in some of my observations — but how many *Times* readers know that the Catholic Church may be dying on this continent, at least as the unchallenged force it has been for nearly four centuries?

Although this is Easter, there is little sign of religious observance on the Island of the Sun. Everywhere I go in the Andes I see churches neglected, empty, decaying. Even over the 15 years I have been coming here, the change has been very marked. I wonder whether any faith is declining quite as fast anywhere else in the world?

The Basilica San Francisco in La Paz, the ordinary people's favourite church, was overflowing 15 years ago. Today, although still the capital's busiest church, the Basilica is rarely full. Friends here tell me that the

Catholicism never challenged the subjugation of the individual to the many

peasants in old ways (as is often thoughtlessly alleged), the Church has preferred to leave the lifestyle alone, and gone with the grain of their old sins and ways. It has thus become a peasant religion.

Alcoholism is a terrific problem in the Andes, and the evangelicals — militant teetotalers — are challenging alcoholism as the Catholic Church never has. Coca-chewing has been a problem too. This is said to be on the decline in Bolivia, probably thanks to evangelical campaigns against the drug. More than this, though, the message of individual responsibility, dignity and pride, through the individual's unmediated approach to God, is enormously liberating and disciplining for a peasant people whose culture has repressed individuality and subjected them to the norms of the many. Catholicism never challenged this subjugation of the individual.

To put it crudely, the Catholic Church in the Andes has taken the wrong side. I think its condition may now be critical. Visitors to the Island of the Sun 50 years hence may hear of an evangelical miracle in this place, pursuant to the Catholic one, which was pursuant to the Inca miracle, itself pursuant to the ancient meeting here of Heaven and Earth.

The Chinese Government seems not to understand what Hong Kong, and the world, expect of it

The encircled dragon lashes out

William Rees-Mogg

In the past few weeks, even since I last visited Hong Kong in January, there has been a sharp fall in local confidence about Hong Kong's future under Chinese rule. The queues for passports are one sign of that. In January, the pro-Chinese Hong Kong leaders were still arguing that it would only take time for the Peking regime to develop into something more benign, and even eventually into something more democratic.

The argument one heard was that China had, of course, made a great mistake in adopting the Russian Marxist model in the 1940s, that Deng Xiaoping had recognised that the American economic model was much more efficient, that already this was producing a younger generation of well-travelled Chinese, many of them American-educated, who were waiting to take China into the modern world, politically as well as economically. In ten or 15 years' time, they would take over power from the old men, and in the meantime one must have a little patience.

Under its new owner, Robert Kuok, the *South China Morning Post* has usually taken the more optimistic and pro-Chinese line. That gives all the more weight to a full-page article by Jasper Becker on "China's PR blunders" which that newspaper published on Saturday. This expressed the new anxiety which has become very widespread in Hong Kong in the past few weeks. The article refers to China's alarming policy towards Taiwan, to the mishandling of relations with Hong Kong and to the significant weaknesses of the New China News Agency, which has tended to misinform the Chinese about the outside world. It gives a picture of Peking in which "incompetent and inexperienced" junior officials are telling the leaders what they think the leaders want to hear.

Last week the North Korean incursions into the demilitarised zone heightened the feeling of tension which exists all around China's borders. No one knows what the real relations are now between the Chinese Government and the North Korean regime. In the recent past, on the nuclear issue, China has been a moderating influence. On this occasion, China may have been more willing to see North Korea add its might to the pressure on the United States which had already arisen over the American commitment to Taiwan.

When one looks at China's geopolitical position, it all seems a dangerous game, but one which is nevertheless being played from weakness rather than strength. China exists inside a large box, with Russia and Mongolia to the north; Islam (in the form of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan) to the west; India, Nepal, Burma and on to Vietnam in the south; and Taiwan, Japan and ultimately the United States to the east. All of these neighbours regard China with some anxiety and with increasing suspicion, although Pakistan is tied to China by a still greater fear of India.

There is an historic parallel, and it is not reassuring. In the early years of this century, the central powers of Europe — Germany and Austria — were surrounded by anxious neighbours. Russia, France, Italy and Great Britain felt themselves to be threatened by the Prussian Em-

pire, as Germany was then called. On their side, Germany and Austria felt themselves to be encircled by potentially hostile powers, including the country that in 1914 British leader writers were to label "gallant little Serbia". This combination of fear of a potentially dominant power with that power's fear of being surrounded produced successive crises in Europe. The final one led to the Great War. When a major continental power is surrounded, an inherently dangerous geopolitical pattern is created.

China's relations with Islam are particularly sensitive. China is the colonial power in occupation of two vast but lightly populated western regions: Tibet, which is Buddhist, and Xinjiang, which is predominantly Islamic. These colonial areas make up about a fifth of China's land mass, but contain only about 2 per cent of the total population. Large populations of Han Chinese have been imported into both of these regions;

these Han Chinese have the best jobs, the old cultures and religions have been undermined, there are occasional minor nationalist riots. The Chinese have created a large nuclear test site at Lop Nur in Xinjiang, and have built large prison camps.

It is worrying for the people of Hong Kong and the people of Taiwan that China's rule of these remote western regions has been so insensitive and repressive, wholly concentrated on the short-term interests of the regime. Unforgivable environmental damage, of a quite irreparable kind, has been done. The Hong Kong Chinese are increasingly fearful that the assurances of the Joint Declaration will prove meaningless for them, and that Hong Kong will be treated far worse as a Chinese colony after 1997 than it has been as a British one. The queues for passports may well indicate a further flight of capital, as well as of people.

The more critical Chinese observers are divided about the outlook. The optimists think that what has been going wrong has been caused simply by the gap between the Deng Xiaoping regime and the new regime of Jiang Zemin, which is still being established. In this sense, the *South China Morning Post* could still be regarded as the optimists, treating the errors of policy as public relations blunders, compounded by the inadequacies of the information

presented to the leaders. The pessimists see these blunders, which amount to a basic failure to establish normal relations with China's neighbours, as typical signs of the end of a regime, the traditional disorder which has appeared at the end of every Chinese dynasty. Fewer people now think that there will be a benign transition from the present Leninist party rule to democracy as the younger group comes to power.

In the meantime, China's rapid economic development continues. After 1997, the Chinese regime in Hong Kong may do some damage to its wonderful money-making machine. International businesses have so far been remarkably willing to take the Joint Declaration on trust. That trust may be ending. The Chinese have already handled the future of Hong Kong in ways which have done great damage to public morale and confidence. The fear is now spreading to the international financial community. Yet Hong Kong has such momentum that it will take a long time to lose its attraction to investors, unless the new regime proves to be wholly perverse.

In the period before the Tiananmen Square killings, there was great world optimism about China's political development. Even after the massacre, it was widely believed that the repression was only an incident on China's journey to a more open society. In 1996, that confidence has been shaken by the mishandling of Hong Kong, by the continued oppression in the western territories and by the threat to Taiwan. All of China's neighbours, including India, have a feeling that the regime in Peking does not have a proper understanding of the world outside. The tragedy is that the world's goodwill is still there. China has been choosing to damage its own reputation; the rest of the world would like nothing better than to re-establish good relations.

What Tony learnt from Bill

Campaigning isn't enough; Labour must show it can govern, writes Peter Riddell

Tony Blair can learn a lot from Bill Clinton — about how to win elections and about how not to govern. The two are linked, since the origins of the President's problems in office go back to the 1992 campaign. When the two met in the White House on Friday, much will be made of their similarities — leaders in their forties trying to change their parties and to present them as new and of the centre, after long periods out of power and the political mainstream. There is the obvious risk of too much gushing about a new "special relationship", a Bill and Tony equivalent of the Ronald and Maggie of the 1980s, but Mr Blair and Mr Clinton are far too shrewd and unsentimental to believe such nonsense.

Political conditions are very different across the Atlantic, but the leading lights in "new" Labour are close to many of Mr Clinton's advisers. They follow the policy and political debate in Washington. Their contacts have ranged from a study of campaigning techniques by Philip Gould, a key Labour media adviser who worked in Little Rock for part of the 1992 campaign, to the discussions of the policy problems of economic management and insecurity which Gordon Brown, and his adviser Ed Balls, regularly conduct with Robert Reich, Mr Clinton's Labour Secretary, and Larry Summers, the Deputy Treasury Secretary.

As a diplomat in the British Embassy in Washington, Blair's chief of staff, Jonathan Powell, monitored the Clinton campaign and arranged a visit there by Mr Blair and Mr Brown just after the inauguration. This visit and the addressing of a union-sponsored conference in Lon-



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

don by senior Clinton advisers led to charges that Labour was being Clintonised by the modernisers and with the new President soon running into serious problems. Mr Blair cooled his public enthusiasm.

But Blair and Brown and their advisers have been crucially influenced by the Clinton experience. At one level, they have learnt about campaign tactics — the need for rapid response and rebuttal of the other side's comments, and for adherence to a consistent and focused message. Even Labour's new centralised media headquarters in Millbank is modelled on the Clinton campaign's war room.

More important are the strategic lessons: the importance of demonstrating that the party has changed, "new" Labour as much as "new" Democrat. This has involved showing that the party is in tune with the

values and aspirations of ordinary people. The same buzzwords recur on both sides of the Atlantic: opportunity, responsibility, community, partnership. Mr Blair's catchphrase as Shadow Home Secretary, "tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime" — was directly influenced by the rethinking of Mr Clinton's advisers. This approach has also emphasised the importance of symbolic actions to highlight change, such as the rewriting of Clause Four and Gordon Brown's repeated claims that Labour will not spend and tax for its own sake.

This campaign strategy took Mr Clinton to the White House, and it contained internally contradictory policies. It aimed to boost the

economy with an investment and training stimulus, while giving working people a tax cut, raising the taxes only of the very well-off, and taking action to cut the budget deficit. Not all of this could be achieved, and in office the Clinton Administration has been forced to drop the investment stimulus and make a priority of deficit reduction. The resulting budget package was impressive, but Mr Clinton did not receive much credit, since he had failed to fulfil his own promises.

His most serious failing was inconsistency. After being elected as a "new" Democrat, he appeared to sprawl to the left in office, with rows over appointments and homosexuals in the military. Healthcare reform, his policy priority for his second year, went nowhere, and he surrendered the initiative to the Republicans, who triumphed in the mid-term elections

of November 1994. Mr Clinton has recently recovered by moving back to the centre and by sticking to a tough line on the budget with the Republican Congress.

Some of the problems of Mr Clinton's presidency stem from his personal flaws, or from Whitewater. But in so far as they do not, there are obvious lessons, which Mr Blair's team understand. First, be consistent. Gordon Brown is determined to prevent his colleagues from making spending commitments, or even hinting at commitments, which can be used by the Tories as ammunition or which cannot be implemented in office. Mr Blair's decision, to ignore Labour members this autumn on the party's draft manifesto is intended not only to gain the support of the whole party for the programme, but to show that it is coherent and achievable.

Labour's second lesson is to be disciplined. Mr Blair's operation is tightly and centrally run, to the irritation of many Labour MPs. The third is to have a clear plan for government. There is no danger that Mr Blair will sprawl to the left in Downing Street. But after being out of office for so long, his party must have clear priorities for legislation and action to prevent drift and to avoid being sidetracked into irrelevant rows.

The patchy record of the Clinton Administration, however, raises the question of whether there are weaknesses inherent in what the new Democrats and new Labour are trying to do, as well as in the implementation. It is all very well for Mr Blair to tell bankers and businessmen in New York that Labour has changed, that it is not trying to reverse Thatcherism, that it favours free trade, enterprise and inward investment. But removing the fear of Labour is not the same as showing that it can really make a difference.

The Clinton Administration has not so far produced solid evidence that government can help to improve long-term economic performance by a partnership with business. Mr Clinton's new Democrats, as well as Mr Blair's new Labour, have yet to prove they can govern as successfully as they can campaign.

African queen

WHEN President Mandela visits Britain in July, his escort may have a faraway look in her eye. For Rochelle Mitlra, the woman most often seen by his side since his separation from Winnie Mandela, is said to be in love. A "granddaughter" of Mandela, in the sense that she is part of his extended tribal family, she is currently in the United States visiting her paramour, Doctor Khumalo.

Khumalo, a hero of South Africa's recent victory in the African Nations Cup, sent Miss Mitlra an air ticket to join him in the United States two weeks ago. She is still there, staying with him while he plays football for the Columbus Crew in Ohio.

The two make quite a couple. Miss Mitlra's position as Mandela's escort has made her something of a pin-up, as well as virtual royalty. Meanwhile, Khumalo's wholesome features and silky skills have made him one of South Africa's most marketable sportsmen. He can be seen frequently on television and beaming down from advertising hoardings with spoonfuls of cereal halfway to his mouth.

Miss Mitlra, who plans to resume her studies in either Britain or America, after dropping out of university recently, lives in the President's mansion in Johannesburg, and in addition to accompanying Mandela at official events in South Africa, she has been on several foreign trips. The President is said to be keeping abreast of the romantic developments.

His office would say only that Miss Mitlra was out of the



President's friend: Rochelle

country "for personal reasons", and Khumalo is also keeping shunt on the matter. "I have met her on several occasions," he gurgles, "and know her from a distance."

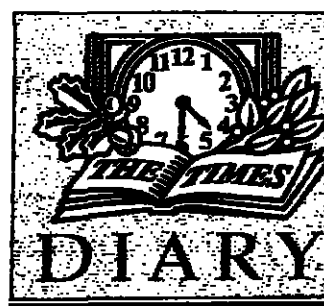
Odd one out

EASTER brings rumblings at *The Catholic Herald*, home to some of the country's more thrusting Romans. The Editor, Cristina Odono, 36, an excitable brunette of Italian extraction who can often be found at the centre of a fawning crowd of liver-spotted old men, is said to be on the point of leaving.

Odono, known as The Odd One, is set to take a sabbatical from the dizzying pace of the *Herald* very soon. She is not expected to return. Having raised the profile of her rag, she is said to want to concentrate on her sex-and-surprise novel-writing, following the modest success of her first book, *The Shrine*.

Blaired vision

WHILE Washington snoozes at the prospect of Tony Blair's visit this week, the excitement in Blair's London office is unbearable. It is not so much the issues being discussed that are causing the fuss



as the dribbling admiration that Blair's team are displaying for the pizza-scoffing, trainer-wearing parachutists of the White House.

As Peter Riddell explains above, Blair's tight corte of advisers and spin-doctors closely matches the President's Staff. Both men have a penchant for youth, too. Where Blair has David Milliband, 30, and Tim Allen, 26, helping him with policy and the press respectively, Clinton has George Stephanopoulos, 34, doing both.

"Blair's people are obsessed with the Clinton team," says an observer, "and with the way so many of them, like Stephanopoulos, have achieved this sort of pop star status."

Do they remember, however, that one of the first ideas the Clinton campaign team offered Labour was the Sheffield rally which fin-

ished off Neil Kinnock's chances of beating John Major in 1992?

Quibbles, it seems. "It's actually very sweet," says one close to Blair's crew. "It's like Orpington Seconds visiting Manchester United for a training session."

When Blair hits New York this week, he may see some of the bumperstickers currently being distributed by Sidney Blumenthal, a writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. Alongside the regular "Clinton/Gore in '96" stickers are others



"I've got something on Blair too — fifty quid to win the election"

designed to irritate Bob Dole, the 72-year-old Republican candidate who is having trouble convincing the country that he has enough of the vital juices left in him to be President. Blumenthal's sticker reads simply: "Bob Dole is 96."

Foxed

ATTENTION all hunting folk: the British Field Sports Society needs you. Robin Hanbury-Tenison, recently appointed chief executive of the society, has been shocked by the apathy of his members. Last month he sent a round-robin to his 80,000 members asking for help in the campaign for country sports. Only 950 replies came back.

A plea for help in recruiting new members was even less of a success, with only 50 people bothering to reply. "That's not even 0.1 per cent," howls Hanbury-Tenison. "What are all the rest doing?"

With the infiltration and neutering of the anti-hunting RSPCA on his agenda, H-T has no time to rest. Calling all those who hunt but don't join the society "plain free-loaders", he has now harrumphed off round the country to raise support by himself.

Swimmers at the Kensington New Pools in west London are excit-



Making waves: Damon

ed about their latest fellow paddler: Damon Albarn, lead singer of the pop group Blur. Albarn, who can regularly be seen touting his hair in shop windows down the Portobello Road, has set the women's changing room, and certain corners of the men's, alight by punishing his skinny frame with lengths in the pool. "Lots of women are not wearing their swimming caps any more," says my spy in the deep end. "They want to look their best just in case Damon swims into them."

P.H.S

ENLISTING THE ALMIGHTY

Politics and piety do not mix in election campaigns

Since Tony Blair became leader, Labour has made an audacious success of claiming new converts. From the defection of the Conservative MP Alan Howarth to yesterday's report that his party is now more middle class than the Tories, Mr Blair has contrived to cast his net wider than other fishers of men. But one claim of support for new Labour may be as likely to insult as inspire.

In an otherwise thoughtful interview the Labour leader sought to sign up God for his own brand of Socialism. Mr Blair was careful to say his values rather than his policies were divinely inspired. But by seeking, however obliquely, to appropriate the Almighty's approval for his personal crusade Mr Blair is making a mistake.

In his interview in *The Sunday Telegraph* Mr Blair showed himself alive to the dangers of politicians creeping into the pulpit. He claimed: "I can't stand politicians who wear God on their sleeves." After this spiritual health warning he spoke with intelligence and honesty about the importance of his faith. The British are often embarrassed by public discussion of private belief, but Mr Blair dealt delicately with the importance of Christianity in his inner life.

He faltered when he tried to justify his faith in current politics. He argued: "My view of Christian values led me to oppose what I perceive to be the narrow view of self-interest that Conservatism — particularly in its modern, more right-wing, form — represents." He argued that it was his theology that was the "essential reason why I am on the left rather than the right." He may have protested that "I do not believe that Christians should vote only Labour". But the impression from his other comments is that Christians can hardly vote Conservative.

Mr Blair is no stranger to arrogance and never slow to demonise his enemies, although seldom so literally. He once described his critics on the left as in need of therapy. Now he seems to be arguing that his opponents on the right require salvation. The implication of his remarks is that

sincere Christians who are Conservatives such as Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, and Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, are either prepared to ignore their religious principles, or have not the character to put them into practice. Mr Blair's references to Pontius Pilate as the archetypal politician could not have been better chosen to suggest that those currently in authority are hypocritical and weak.

This is not the first time that Mr Blair has sought to enlist the Almighty. His last Labour conference speech was evangelical in tone and biblical in its rhetoric. His biographers have emphasised his churchgoing. He defended his choice of a grant-maintained school for his son on, among others, religious grounds. The depth of his beliefs does him credit. But his attempts to exploit them for political ends do not. Christian principles do not belong to any party.

If Mr Blair wishes to convert Conservatives he should rely on the strength of his policies, not a display of his piety. There is, however, one Bible lesson the Tories should bear in mind this Easter: they should take joy in sinners who repent. Dispatch of a dossier to Republicans in the US made up of past comments by Mr Blair and his wife, alleged to show them "anti-nuclear and anti-American", is unconvincing and unattractive. Opposition politicians abroad, by convention, do not attack their country's Government. The governing party should not stoop to this kind of attack on an opposition politician when he is visiting a friendly head of state.

Mr Blair may not have fought Labour's unilateralists with the vigour of some of his colleagues but he was never a stooge of the hard Left. Many of Labour's instincts are anti-American, but he is an admirer of the country and its President. Both parties would do the voters a service if they concentrated on justifying their programme for government instead of making unjustified attacks on their opponents' character.

AIR MAIL

The Post Office moves into the travel business

The nearest gateway to the outside world may soon be the Post Office. If an experiment in selling cheap airline tickets from one of London's biggest branch offices proves successful, flights to Majorca, Berlin, New York and beyond may be departing from a counter near you. The Post Office, like other retailers with corporate sights set on the lucrative travel business, hopes that up to 600 of its outlets will soon be competing with high street travel shops. Privatisation may no longer be an option for the Post Office; but there are now no limits on the government agency's appetite for free market competition.

The six-month trial at the Trafalgar Square office is a logical extension of the Post Office's growing involvement in travel. It already sells travellers' cheques, travel insurance, foreign currency and handles passport application forms. The plan is to sell cut-price tickets for seats unsold on scheduled airlines; there are no proposals to offer package holidays. This would not bring the Post Office into direct competition with travel agents, which on the whole do not handle left-over seats. But airlines will benefit enormously: by definition, last-minute vacancies are not available for long, and if they are to sell they must be posted on a computer network that can reach millions of potential travellers quickly. The public, instead of having to search out backstreet shops with a fly-by-night reputation, will know where to look for bargains. The Post Office's solid reputation should dispel fears that such deals are unreliable.

There is still a risk — largely for the Post Office. Unless the plan is thoroughly rehearsed, the potential for a public relations disaster is enormous. Passengers who

buy such tickets may be the first to be bumped, should overbooking mask the real availability. The Post Office will be the first target of their ire. Post Office customers queuing to engage in such old-fashioned transactions as buying stamps or posting parcels will not restrain their patience if the pensioner ahead of them demands a travel through the list of cheap flights to Bermuda. Unless this new business is clearly separated from core Post Office activities, it will bring not profit but brickbats.

Profit is already in doubt. The Post Office is one of the great money-making branches of government. Over the next three years it will pay in £920 million to the Treasury. Turning around a loss-making industry was never the rationale for privatisation; indeed it was the success of the streamlined agency's components that roused even Conservative opposition to Michael Heseltine's plans — explained only in ideological terms — to sell its golden goose. The Post Office has already been imbued with the enterprise culture, so much so that Bill Cockburn, its former chief executive, was snatched in January by WH Smith to lend his expertise to the private sector.

Privatisation, however, would have been a signal for the Post Office, with its enviable reach into almost every British town and village, to exploit untrammelled its unique access and name recognition. Post Office Customers has not needed encouragement to go down this road. Already smaller branches are becoming all-purpose general stores. Adding new services is commercially as well as politically attractive. It lifts the horizons of this once stuffy institution well beyond the shores of Britain.

MAMPRUGIPUIGINABA

A Norfolk teacher puts on the robes of tribal office

To be anointed a tribal chief in northern Ghana is an honour as ancient and elaborate as it is colourful. Enthroned on sheepskin and woven cushions, draped in red and black robes, presented with a carved wooden stick, the recipient is blessed by elders and acclaimed by drums and ululating dancers. When such an honour is bestowed on a Norfolk schoolteacher who spends her professional life conducting sixth-form chemistry classes at Hethersett Old Hall, it is a joyful signal of an exceptional achievement by an exceptional woman. Lynne Symonds was yesterday granted a right never before given to a white woman: the title of Mamprugipuinaba, meaning a chieftain of the Mamprusi tribe. She now has literally the power of life and death over her adopted subjects; but it is for her vital contribution to the tribe's life that she has been honoured.

Mrs Symonds has brought the priceless gift of learning to Wulugu, one of the most underdeveloped villages in northern Ghana. For the past year she has cajoled and persuaded British schools and well-wishers to raise enough money to build a well stocked library in Wulugu. Five students, as a result, have gained entrance to university. Now she is helping to build a boarding house for the 80 girl pupils. The villages have nothing with which to repay her except their

gratitude — and their ancestral honours.

Most countries express gratitude to foreigners who establish a special rapport with their citizens or who perform the state some signal service. Churchill was an honorary American citizen, Eisenhower an honorary Londoner. George Bush and Caspar Weinberger can call themselves knights, though may not use the title; a handful of Britons can wear in their lapels the ribbon of the Légion d'honneur. For an African country, however, to admit to the ranks of its revered elders a white woman from the nation of its former colonial rulers is more exotic and more flattering. The ceremonies and the circumstances may have a touch of Rider Haggard about them; but that only adds to the frisson of the occasion.

By presenting Mrs Symonds to the Nayiri, the Paramount Chief, the pupils and villagers of Wulugu have drawn international attention to what she has done. Her gifts of literature and science are, of course, keys to advancement for the impoverished. But the value lies in her personal engagement on behalf of her adopted village. Mrs Symonds is not a charity worker or a UNESCO official: she is a teacher from an ordinary English village. Personal friendships bind and inspire more than any aid programme. To those who nourish such human links belong tribal honour and glory.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Examination of Oxford's efficiency and ability to adapt

From Professor R. L. Smith

Sir, As a British-born academic who has just resigned a chair at Cambridge to return to the United States, I find myself very much in agreement with the criticisms of Oxford University made by Coopers & Lybrand (report, April 1), and am not convinced by the defence put up by Roger Scruton ("In praise of useless knowledge", April 2).

During my two years at Cambridge I have lost track of the time I have spent in committees debating such matters as whether there should be four questions or five in a particular examination paper, or shuffling pieces of paper from college office to departmental office to university office because no two of the three separate administrations are capable of talking to each other.

There is much more to "efficiency" than mere cost calculations. It is not a matter of putting quantitative research goals above all else, as Scruton implies, but of getting on with the job we are paid to do — which is both teaching and research. Most of my Cambridge colleagues are highly conscientious and effective teachers, as well as top-quality researchers, but they are held back by the system.

Even college tutorials, so beloved by Professor Scruton, have many hidden costs. It is difficult to create a new course, or to make substantial changes to an existing one, without the agreement of a large number of college tutors or supervisors. Syllabi get out of date because they are so hard to change.

My only surprise about the Coopers & Lybrand report is that the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford had to hire outside consultants to find out what any reasonably well-travelled academic could have told him for nothing. Yours faithfully, RICHARD SMITH, University of Cambridge, Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, 16 Mill Lane, Cambridge.

From Dr Lionel Tarasenko
Sir, I fail to recognise the university in which I teach and do research in your

summary of the report from Coopers & Lybrand and especially in the article by Roger Scruton. I wonder how selective the management consultants were in their interviewing.

It is not my experience that "there is no stimulus for change in the curriculum". As a result of changes introduced in the last two years, the engineering science degree has a new syllabus and a new structure, the physicists have brought in a new four-year course and the university now offers brand new degrees in computation and in economics and management. The degree course on which I teach is vastly different from my own undergraduate course in the same department less than twenty years ago.

As for the Oxford which Roger Scruton describes, it is closer to the Oxford of today. "Scholars live side by side with their pupils," he writes. Very few dons nowadays live in college, and final-year options in the sciences are usually taught in small classes rather than tutorials.

Excellence in research, scholarship and teaching are not mutually incompatible in a modern university: indeed, it is the link between research and teaching which is often the stimulus for the kind of curriculum changes alluded to above.

The real question for the Vice-Chancellor's commission of inquiry is how best to enhance our ability to carry out world-class research whilst maintaining our traditional strengths, in teaching for example.

This goal, I believe, is attainable provided that we allow faculties enough independence to resolve the problem in a way which is optimal for their discipline.

Yours faithfully, L. TARASENKO, University of Oxford, Department of Engineering Science, Parks Road, Oxford, April 2.

From Mr Tim Dyson
Sir, Roger Scruton is so brilliantly right after four "useless" years (1958-62) reading Greats at Balliol. I have

had a successful commercial career in international advertising, living and working throughout Europe, the Middle East and China, learning the different languages and cultures — thanks to my "useless" tutorial education in Latin, Greek and ancient philosophy.

If a bunch of purblind accountants takes over the Oxford system, I shall happily hand back my degree.

Yours sincerely, TIM DYSON, Tim Dyson Associates, 2 Investment House, Queen's Road, Weybridge, Surrey, April 2.

From Mr Adam Shapiro and Mr Stephen Royle

Sir, The purpose of the Coopers & Lybrand inquiry was to show how the best of Oxford — scholarship and the perpetuation of knowledge for its own sake — could be preserved and strengthened against ravages of outsiders. These ravages include government cuts when student numbers are rising, new funding formulae and worldwide competition for the best staff and students.

The report did not come out against the college system. Nor did it come out against the tutorial system, observing it to be the "Rolls-Royce" of teaching methods.

These were not in its remit for consideration. It considered the governance of the university and made recommendations concerning how power may best be exercised by those academics most directly affected.

Oxford has survived since the 13th century by recognising that when things are wrong, they should be put right. Antiquity of abuse is no excuse for its continuance.

Yours faithfully, ADAM SHAPIRO (President, Oxford University Student Council), STEPHEN ROYLE (Junior member, Hebdomadal Council), Oxford University Student Council, 28 Little Clarendon Street, Oxford, April 2.

Property laws on island of Sark

From Sir Peter Miller

Sir, Lord McAlpine's article, "The strange goings-on in Sark" (April 4), is itself somewhat strange.

For a member of the House of Lords to criticise another parliament for "pomp and ceremony... quaint traditions" and lack of democracy is a bit rich. Moreover, the article is flawed by errors and omissions.

Lord McAlpine does not mention the 12 People's Deputies who are elected to the Chief Pleas. While divorce is not possible on the island, Sark recognises divorces effected elsewhere. The policeman (or Constable) is elected by Chief Pleas, not by the Seigneur. Our lay magistrate has as much common sense as an English lay magistrate.

A lot is expected of the Seigneur as the island's chief representative. He receives no remuneration for his duties, beyond a feudal tax of derisory proportions; this is the justification for the treizième tax when property changes hands.

The inheritance laws of Sark are certainly complicated and may well be worthy of debate. However, it is possible to transfer property between the generations in accordance with the wishes of the owner, although it may involve a tax of 7.7 per cent. Is this too high an inheritance tax in an island which has no income tax?

The Sark system, of which the noble lord is so critical, works well. The island's civil service is cost-effective; there is no "national debt". While there certainly are serious problems (cost of teenage education and of care of the elderly) I wonder if the interests of affluent outsiders (in which category I include myself, however low on the scale) should have a high priority for attention?

Yours faithfully, PETER MILLER (Member of Chief Pleas), La Ville Roussel, Sark, Channel Islands, April 6.

From Mr Bruce Parker

Sir, Lord McAlpine's assessment of the legal battle between the Barclay brothers and Michael Beaumont, the Seigneur of Sark, raises important questions.

Sark does, indeed, have its own parliament, the Chief Pleas. In reality, however, it forms part of the Guernsey Bailiwick where Sark laws are generally approved by the Royal Court or rejected, subject to appeal to the Privy Council.

Lord McAlpine suggests that the case between the Barclays and Mr Beaumont will move "from court to court until such time as it reaches the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg". If he is right I wonder how soon other challenges might come before the European court, notably concerning the complicated laws in both Guernsey and Jersey which control the numbers of non-islanders wishing to take up residence and work there.

Yours faithfully, BRUCE PARKER, 58 Canon Street, Winchester, Hampshire, April 4.

Storm over cuppa

From Mrs S. E. Ellis

Sir, Anyone born and bred in Devon knows that scones (letter, March 30) should be split whilst still warm from the oven, thickly coated with clotted cream and crowned with home-made raspberry jam. Cream with treacle atop delights in the title "Thunder and lightning". Butter has no role to play at all.

Yours faithfully, SUSAN ELLIS, 17 Manton Hollow, Marlborough, Wiltshire, April 4.

Hymns for occasions

From Mrs Lorna Boyce

Sir, Our daughter, a slightly apprehensive traveller, insists that we play the hymn *Eternal Father, strong to save*, whenever she crosses the Channel by ferry.

We wondered what we should play when she flew to Germany recently and eventually selected *He who would valiant be 'Gainst all disaster reinforced* by All my hope on God is founded.

Is there a more appropriate hymn and also one which would be suitable for the Channel Tunnel, should she brave its perils in the future?

Yours sincerely, LORNA BOYCE, Offa's Dyke, 7 Brynawel, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, April 6.

Apily named

From Mr Christopher Barrass and Mr Tim Towle

Sir, "Far from protecting human rights, therefore," (letter, April 3), "Baroness Turner's Sexual Orientation Discrimination Bill would diminish them." SOD's law?

Yours etc, CHRISTOPHER BARRASS, TIM TOWLE, Corporate Communications, Brackdene House, Oak Grange Road, Guildford, Surrey, April 3.

Torode answers Levin

From Mr John Torode

Sir, I was horrified by Bernard Levin's quite bizarre article "The sins of the fathers" (April 5) which, no doubt unintentionally, gravely distorts a piece I wrote three months ago for the *Daily Mail*. In it I tried to unravel the relatively minor role my father played for the Communist International, primarily as a Soviet courier into Nazi Germany in the mid-1930s, and the pressure that may subsequently have been imposed on him by the Soviet Union.

As I thought my affectionate and respectful article made clear, he was a brave and honourable man who risked his life in the struggle against Nazism. He misjudged the nature of Stalinism at a time when many others did so. He gradually broke with the Communist Party and the Communist Party of Great Britain after the Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939. Subsequently, as a trade union general secretary, he was active in the postwar purging of communists from the London Trades Council, one of the crucial moments in the Cold War struggle to ensure that the British trade union movement did not fall under communist control.

To describe him as a "traitor" is a grotesque travesty of my article, my beliefs — and of the evidence. And to draw parallels between my position and that of the children of Germans who gassed Jews is stupid, offensive and inaccurate. It is equally offensive and inaccurate to suggest that I might have considered suicide on discovery of my father's role.

Far from going to my grave with my father's brand on my heart, as Levin writes, I will go to my grave proud to have been his son and proud of his record.

Yours etc, JOHN TORODE, 25 Platt's Lane, SW3, April 7.

Newspaper records

From Mr M. M. Charlish

Sir, I recently sought to identify an undated and unnamed newspaper cutting given me by an old comrade about important actions in which the Wessex reconnaissance regiment had been involved during 1945, and which I needed to identify for regimental archives. My inquiries revealed that of a number of West Country newspapers, some — no names, no pack drill — had no records before 1950.

In spite of considerable help kindly given freely by the Gloucestershire and Avon library services, I had no option but to follow their advice and search in the British Newspaper Library at Colindale, northwest London. Fortunately my wife and I were able to visit successfully in one day, which might have been impossible (or very expensive) for someone having to travel far.

Some newspaper records are not even available at Colindale, and alternative sources are thus particularly valuable.

Local newspapers must be made financially strong enough to support the retention of their own records.

Yours faithfully, M. McEWEEN CHARLISH, 132 Park Lane, Carshalton, Surrey.

Cairngorm funicular

From the Chief Executive of the Cairngorm Chairlift Company

Sir, The letter from Sir Chris Bonington and others (March 27) suggesting that the Secretary of State for Scotland should intervene in the planning for the proposed Cairngorm funicular railway contains an inaccuracy.

The funicular will be a straightforward, albeit much improved, replacement for our obsolete 36-year-old chairlift system. It will not go to the summit, as suggested, but duplicate the chairlift route, ending at the existing top station at 3,600ft, 464ft below the summit of Cairn Gorm.

Facilities in the Ptarmigan building at the top station no longer adequately serve our winter market. The new building is larger but is sited half a mile horizontally from the plateau.

It will offer an effective system for visitor management and for the first time protect the summit and plateau area from wandering feet by ensuring that non-skiing visitors out of season are contained within the ski area.

The company is actively pursuing a sensitive and sustainable development programme consistent both with the preservation of our superb

environment and the needs and aspirations of our local communities.

Yours sincerely, TIM WHITTOME, Chief Executive, Cairngorm Chairlift Company, Aviemore, Highland Region, April 6.

From Mr Ian J. Wade

Sir, I realise that I enter the lion's den when I take issue with the eminent list of presidents of the Alpine Club. However, to someone like me who knows the Cairngorm area well, their assertion that "this proposal would do irreversible damage to one of Europe's most important wild areas, both in landscape and nature-conservation terms", seems way over the top when the building of the railway would affect perhaps no more than 1 per cent of the vast Cairngorm area.

More relevant is the fact that, in a recent poll, the vast majority of the local populace, in an area where job prospects are very bleak, expressed themselves in favour of the project.

Yours etc, IAN J. WADE, 32 Belmont Road, Harrow, Middlesex, March 27.

Lottery awards

From Mr Jez Hall

Sir, A revision of the rules for the distribution of lottery awards to encompass grants to talented sports and arts students is to be welcomed (report, April 2), but why should sports and the arts be singled out?

Unlike when I was a student in the early Seventies, students of all academic disciplines are now forced by the system to take out loans.

Why are we not using lottery funds to restore the grant system to all those with talent by they future doctors, teachers, or even Secretaries of State for Heritage?

Yours faithfully, JEZ HALL, 42 Newacres, Newburgh, Wigan, Greater Manchester, April 2.

In the chair

From Mr F. J. Mellor

Sir, I believe that the most effective debunking of the monstrous verbal circumlocutions perpetrated in the name of political correctness (letters, March 23, 27, 30, April 1) may lie with the Tory opposition leader of an inner London borough where the newly elected Labour council, drunk with success and crusading zeal, is said to have spent 1½ hours debating whether to use the term "chairman/woman", "chairperson" or "chair".

At the conclusion of the debate they decided on "chair", whereupon the opposition leader rose and said: "Chair, may I introduce myself to the new members? I am the opposition spoke."

Yours etc, F. J. MELLOR, 16 Newhouse Crescent, Norden, Rochdale, Lancashire, April 2.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

OBITUARIES

GREER GARSON



Greer Garson with Walter Pidgeon in *Mrs Miniver*, 1942

Greer Garson, actress, died on April 6 aged 92. She was born on September 29, 1903.

GREER GARSON was one of Hollywood's most bankable women stars during the Second World War. She was not a stunning beauty, but a proud, intelligent-looking actress who arrived in Hollywood at exactly the right time. The previous generation of Hollywood queens — Greta Garbo, for instance — had just passed their peaks and audiences were beginning to tire of seeing them. More than any other actress of her generation, it was Garson's fate to be remembered for her role in one film, the morale-raising *Mrs Miniver* (1942) — a film which is credited with having emotionally conditioned the American public to the necessity of war. *Mrs Miniver* was made in 1942, when America was still overcoming the shock of Pearl Harbor. As the title suggests it was a woman's film, the focus of the narrative being placed squarely on the shoulders of the anonymous heroine played by Garson.

It was set in an England which had never existed, a chocolate box world of rose-strewn villages, landed gentry and old family retainers. Unlike British war films of that year, which stressed how much ordinary people were contributing to the war effort, *Mrs Miniver* was shameless in the emphasis it placed on the fortitude of the middle-classes. *Mrs Miniver* is the sort of woman who, when confronted with the awful possibility of invasion, goes out and buys a new hat. Despite all this, British audiences seemed to like the film as much as the Americans.

Mrs Miniver was only one of a series of wifely roles for Garson. She liked to say that MGM stood, in her case, for "Metro's Glorious Mrs". She played tender wives, understanding wives, stoic wives and militant wives. She was undoubtedly striking, with pale skin, Titian hair, blue-green eyes, a haughty nose and a firm chin. But she was never allowed to be too alluring, and her feminine figure was habitually restricted beneath bustles, corsets and all the paraphernalia of costume drama. For this reason, some critics thought she was just a little too poised, elegant and stuffily respectable.

This was unfair, because Garson had taken on a fairly wide range of roles, particularly in youth. Some of the blame for her diminishing popularity after the war must be laid firmly at the door of her studio, MGM, which provided her with some extremely poor vehicles after the success of *Mrs Miniver*.

Greer Garson was born in Colwyn, North Wales, the daughter of a businessman, and like many actresses of her generation shrouded the year of her birth in mystery. She came from Scottish stock, being a descendant of Rob Roy MacGregor, but her ancestors had emigrated to Ireland (Greer was a corruption of the clan name).

She acted in her first piece of premeditated entertainment — a medieval bric-a-brac about princesses and dragons — at the age of four, and seized every opportunity to act thereafter. Her grandmother remarked that she would rather see a granddaughter of hers dead than

"kicking her legs on a stage" for a profession, and for a while it seemed that Garson's blue-stocking tendencies might yet see her onto a more respectable career path as a teacher. She won a scholarship to the University of London, and later studied at Grenoble.

It was during a day studying in the British Museum, where she was meant to be immersed in French literature, that Garson — watching the bent backs of the old museum servants — revolted. She decided to give up her studies, and to set herself up as a freelance writer instead. She joined an advertising firm and worked, very lucratively for a while, as a research executive. But this was taking her further away again from the theatre.

Once more she impulsively decided on a change of career, and auditioned for the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Her first role was Shirley Kaplan in *Street Scene*. Then followed a chance meeting at the University Women's Club in London with the playwright Sylvia Thompson, and Garson was given the leading part in Thompson's *The Golden Arrow* (1935). Six plays in London, all very well-received, followed over the next two years. George Bernard Shaw was sufficiently impressed to describe her, at this stage, as the natural successor to Ellen Terry.

During the last of these plays, *Old Music* (1937), Garson was being watched from the audience by an enthusiastic Louis B. Mayer, and he, impressed by her beauty and poise, offered her a year's contract with MGM. She agreed, despite the fact that she had already turned down British film offers and that Noel Coward had jokingly threatened her

with physical violence should she ever desert the stage for the screen. Money has a quiet charm," she reflected when she had reached the shores of America.

The attractions of a steady pay cheque may have enticed her there, but to begin with at least, MGM offered her little in the way of a decent part. In time-honoured studio fashion, they spent their first year sizing up their new property, and vainly searching for a vehicle. Garson took screen tests for some ill-fated pictures, but was so bored and homesick that she was planning to return when her first contract was up.

With good timing, MGM then offered her a chance to play in *Goodbye Mr Chips* (1939) which was to be filmed in England, and though she was worried that the part was a mousy one — that of Mr Chips's saintly wife who dies twenty minutes into the film — she quickly agreed. Sentimental and quaint as it may now seem, the film was a huge commercial success at the time. Graham Greene wrote of it: "The whole picture bears a glow of popularity like the face of a successful candidate on election day. And it is wrong to despise popularity in the cinema." *Mr Chips* brought Garson a nomination in the Oscars (the first of seven), and made her a much hotter property in the eyes of casting agents when she returned to Hollywood.

Garson then appeared in a witless comedy called *Remember?* ("Let's not," she said afterwards), before being cast as Elizabeth Bennett in *Aldous Huxley's* screen version of *Pride and Prejudice* (1940). It was not the most sensible piece of casting. Garson was pleased to have the

opportunity to show that her reputation in London as a comedian was not unfounded, and she did not display much subtlety. But again, it was an animated, bouncing film, and it helped to confirm her growing stature in Hollywood.

There followed *Blossoms in the Dust* (1941), her first film opposite Walter Pidgeon with Garson playing Mrs Edna Gladney, founder of a state orphanage, and campaigner to remove the stigma of illegitimacy from children born out of wedlock. This was a shameless tear-jerker, which distorted the facts into a neat star vehicle, but which women — who were making up a growing percentage of Garson's following — flocked to see. To her credit, Garson never thought much of it.

With America still wavering between isolationism and intervention in the war, production on *Mrs Miniver* got under way, with Garson again playing opposite Pidgeon. Other actresses had already blanching at the idea of playing a wife and mother with grown-up children and had rejected the role. Garson, however, though she looked too young to have a son in the RAF, accepted and was proved right. By the time the film was released, America had joined the war and *Mrs Miniver* was thus shown at just the right moment, being seen to symbolise not only British but American sacrifice. It scooped a string of Oscars at that year's awards ceremony, including one for Garson as best actress.

The success of the film encouraged MGM to work on more British-style films. Of these *Random Harvest* (1942), with Ronald Colman, kept the propaganda to a minimum, but again had Garson playing the noble, faithful wife. She was becoming

worried about typecasting, but the film did at least afford her the chance to defy her grandmother, by appearing in a kilt and showing that she also had excellent legs. *Mrs Parkington* (1944), about a lady's maid who comes into money, was less convincing.

With the ending of the war, Garson's popularity started to suffer a slow but irretrievable decline. She made a film with Clark Gable, who was newly-released from service, called *Adventure*, about a romance between a librarian and a sailor: "Gable's back and Garson's got him," enthused the headlines. But the film did not live up to the hype, and was a flop at the box office. So was *Desire Me* (1947), which proved to be such a disaster that George Cukor, who had directed, refused to put his name to it. *That Forsyte Woman* (1949) marked a return to form, with Garson again in Edwardian costume, starring opposite Errol Flynn in the Galsworthy adaptation. But *The Miniver Story* (1950), in which she played opposite Walter Pidgeon for the sixth time, was an ill-advised sequel.

Garson — apart from reaching a difficult age for an actress — had also in 1949 married her third and last husband, "Buddy" Fogelson. Fogelson was a Texan oil millionaire and philanthropist, and Garson now had no need to work. She resented with him in Dallas and turned her mind to raising cattle, breeding horses, gardening and fishing. She also supported the local performing arts and produced the occasional play. She had an office in midtown Dallas where she checked in almost daily.

She could now afford to accept scripts only when she wanted to, and in this semi-retired state she spent the rest of her life. Dissatisfied with the way MGM had been handling her career, she was released from her contract in 1954. She took over from Rosalind Russell in the Broadway production of *Auntie Mame* in 1957, a feisty part which she enjoyed. She received another Oscar nomination for her part in *Sunrise at Campobello* (1960), about the early life of Franklin Roosevelt, and in 1967 showed that she still had the old sparkle in Walt Disney's *The Happiest Millionaire*. But in the 1970s she appeared only in television films and the occasional series.

Because of that intense moment of wartime popularity, however, Garson's reputation among the cinematically literate remained remarkably well preserved. New generations saw *Mrs Miniver* on the television. Some older fans addressed their letters to her simply as "Mrs Miniver, America". People still stopped her on the street and called her by that name. In recognition of her role in the war, she was appointed an honorary CBE in 1993.

Greer Garson was married three times, the first time to Edward Snelson, a British civil servant. Their marriage ended in divorce. Her second marriage was to Richard Ney, who had played her son in *Mrs Miniver* (the two met on set). That marriage too ended in divorce. Her third marriage lasted almost forty years, her husband, Buddy Fogelson, predeceasing her in 1987. She survived by her stepson from that marriage.

BARNEY EWELL



Barney Ewell, Olympic sprinter, died in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on April 4 aged 78. He was born there on February 25, 1918.

A WIRY, leanly-muscled figure who sprang like a greyhound from the traps at the crack of the starter's gun, Barney Ewell was one of the world's most renowned sprinters during the years immediately before and after the Second World War. In his prime he set American and world records over 50 yards, 60 yards and 100 metres — the last clocked in 10.2 seconds — and in the 1948 Olympics, the "austerity games" staged in London, he took one gold and two silver medals, coming within a flash of sweeping three golds.

Norward H. Ewell, always known by his nickname Barney, showed athletic prowess at an early age. However, he was one of that unfortunate generation of athletes to reach their prime during the years of the Second World War when the Olympic Games could not be staged. In the three years from 1940 to 1943, when he was a student at Penn State University, he won an amazing 12 gold medals at collegiate meets, and a further 11 gold medals in Amateur Athletic Union national events. But when in the normal course of events he would have been thinking of turning professional, he was serving in the United States Army instead.

On demobilisation he completed his university degree, keeping up his physical training all the while, and in 1948, although at the age of 30 he was considered well past his athletic best, he equalled the 100-metre world record of 10.2 seconds in the final of the United States Olympic trials.

Ewell took one gold and two silver medals in the London Olympics, although after one of the races his American exuberance won him some disapproval from his reserved English hosts. In the final of the 100 metres he dashed across the line neck-and-neck with his fellow American Harrison Dillard. Believing that he had crossed first, Ewell raised his arms above his head and cavorted down the track. "It was not the done thing," said Sir Arthur Gold, one of the British coaches. "You were expected to stand still, catch your breath and shake your rival's hand." However, when the photo-finish was examined, Dillard was found, in fact, to have won. Ewell showed a generosity of spirit for which he had always been renowned, going over to his rival to shake his hand and congratulate him wholeheartedly.

When he did win gold, as part of the 400 metre relay team, the race was also tinged with controversy. The US team finished six yards ahead of the British team, but were disqualified when a judge ruled that the first pass between Ewell and one of his team mates took place beyond the legal zone. It was only three days after the medal ceremony that an appeals jury, having viewed films of the race, rescinded the disqualification.

In later years, Ewell returned to live in his birthplace where he was treated as a local hero. However, tragically for someone who had earned his fame as a runner, both of his legs had to be partially amputated. It was from complications arising from this that he died. Barney Ewell is survived by his wife Duella, and by their three sons and a daughter.

GORDON CLOUGH

Gordon Clough, radio journalist, died after a long illness on April 6 aged 61. He was born on August 26, 1934.

A VETERAN anchorman of British radio, Gordon Clough was gifted with the broadcaster's art of turning a conversation into an essay. His full, deep voice combined with an understated yet penetrating intellect and a feeling command of the English language to make him one of the most respected voices in radio journalism. He had the talent, it was said, to make listeners actually listen.

Over the course of a long career dedicated to the BBC, Clough interviewed all the major players on the world scene, many of them well before they came to positions of great prominence — James Callaghan and Margaret Thatcher included. For more than 25 years he was a regular presenter of *The World At*

One, the flagship of BBC radio news, as well as the *World This Weekend* and the *PM* programme.

His special area of interest, however, and the one in which he was an acknowledged master, was the Soviet Union. In the days when Moscow was still seen as a brooding presence, threatening the stability of the West, Clough demystified its complexities to his listeners. Many of his programmes will be remembered as classics of their era.

His 1987 *File on 4* series, *A Revolution Without Shots*, was perhaps the most vivid report made at the time on the new glasnost in the Soviet Union. It provided obligatory listening, its first-hand interviews clearing a window onto the changing face of Soviet Russia. *The Indissoluble Union* made in 1989 won a Sony Award as the best documentary feature on current affairs, and later series such as *Death of a Superpower* (1991)

and *Ashes of Empire* (1991) were worthy successors to this. Clough also won a Sony Award in 1984 for his work as a presenter on *The World This Weekend*, voted the best current affairs programme.

Arthur Gordon Clough was born in Salford, Lancashire, and educated locally at Bolton School from which he won a scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he read French and Russian. After two years in the Navy he joined the BBC in 1958. He hoped, initially, to be a drama producer, but started working as a studio manager for the BBC External Services. In 1960 he joined the Russian Service, first as programme assistant but from 1963 onwards as programme organiser. He was untruly branded as the man behind the BBC spy network. In 1968 he moved to Radio News Features as senior duty editor before becoming a freelance presenter in 1973.

The World at One was first

broadcast in 1965 as a lively current affairs programme, replacing the previous rag-bag of news repeats with sharper, more popular and less reverent commentary.

Andrew Boyle and the tough former Editor of the *Daily Mail* William Hardcastle were brought in as presenters. "They found a desert and created an orchard," commented one distinguished journalist. And it was into this fertile environment that Clough came, "chucked in at the deep end" as he put it, on a day that Hardcastle was ill. His first programme was presented on May 1, 1967 — the 50th anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

His full deep voice, betwixt a short stocky stature, soon became one of the most popular in radio journalism. An adroit interviewer, he was less cocky than is fashionable among some current presenters, less concerned to voice a contrary argument. Yet never

deferential or sycophantic, his acute questions and sardonic sense of humour went straight to the point.

As well as presenting *The World at One*, *The World This Weekend* and *PM* Clough could be heard on *Europhone* and *Twenty Four Hours* broadcast over the BBC World Service. On a lighter, yet no less erudite, note he was the questionmaster of *Round Britain Quiz*, a programme which he himself described as an "island of self-indulgent academic mayhem in the sea of high moral purpose which is Radio 4". Where else could you learn, it was once asked, "that the man who designed fridges, refused the presidency of the state of Israel, described himself as an artist's model and was once offered a guaranteed three-week booking at the Palladium was none other than Albert Einstein?" The programme became a national monument, its format preserved in aspic. Clough

also presented *Round Europe Quiz* and *Transatlantic Quiz*.

But gradually a prolonged illness took its toll on Clough. His voice was robbed of its earlier clarity and in his last interviews he audibly fought for breath. In April 1994 he submitted his last report for *Europhone*, and the BBC let go one of its best-loved voices.

Outside his radio career Clough translated several books into English: five from the Russian, including the dissident Alexander Zinoviev's epic satire on Soviet bureaucracy *The Yawning Heights* (1979); and three from the French. In retirement he continued to do the crosswords which he had always enjoyed, but had previously had little time to do except during editorial conferences. Gordon Clough married Carolyn Stafford in 1959. The marriage was dissolved in 1991. He is survived by his former wife and by their son and three daughters.

Church news

Church in Wales

Diocese of Bangor

Appointments

The Rev Madeline Brady to be Bishop's Officer for Co-ordinating the Lay Ministry, Diocesan Press Officer and Assistant Curate, Rural Deanery of Arllechwedd.

The Rev Dr Graham Loveluck, Diocesan Director of Education: Stipendiary Curate, Llanegwad and Llanallgo w. Penrhosllwyg w. Llanfangel Tre'r Beirdd.

The Rev Emrys Owen, Stipendiary Curate, Llanberis w. Llanrug.

Appointments

The Rev Brooke Kingsmill-Lunn, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Stroud Green (London): to be also a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral.

The Rev David Lawrence-March, Chaplain, Bearwood College,

Wokingham (Oxford): to be Rector, Holy w. High Kelting (Norwich). The Rev Dr Robert Love, Priest-in-charge, St Elizabeth, Beconree: to be Vicar, St John and St Matthew, South Horchurch (Chelmsford).

The Rev Michael McGowan, Vicar, Christ Church, Barnet (London): to be also a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral.

The Rev David Nash, Vicar, St Paul's, Winchmore Hill (London): to be also a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral.

The Rev Richard Newton, Curate, Dorking w. Ramore (Guildford): to be Priest-in-charge, Hagley (Worcester).

The Rev Graham Paddock, Priest-in-charge, St Paul, Thornton Heath (Southwark): to be Vicar of that parish.

The Rev Ian Robson, Vicar, St Mary Abbots, Kensington High Street, w. St George Campton Hill (London): to be also a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral.

The Rev Clare Pipe-Wolferstan, Honorary Curate, St Mary Redcliffe w. Temple, Bristol and St John the Baptist, Bedminster: to be Honorary Curate, East Bristol (Bristol).

The Rev Stephen Radley, Priest-in-charge, St Aidan's, Chilton: to be Priest-in-charge, Marley Hill and Education Training Officer for the deaneries of Galeshead and Galeshead West (Durham).

The Rev Penny Rose-Casemore, Assistant Curate, St Mary and St John, Balham and Holy Trinity, Upper Tooting: to be Team Vicar, Christ Church, Clapham (Southwark).

The Rev David Senior, Rector, St Martin, Dextford (Leicester): to be Priest-in-charge, The Ascension, Hall Green (Birmingham).

The Rev Ursula Shore, Science Adviser in the Diocese of Liverpool, and Curate, St John, Alnwick: to be Curate, St David, Chilwell and continue as Diocesan Science Adviser.

The Rev Roy Smith, Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, Stonebridge (London): to be also a Prebendary of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Rev James Tipp, Rector, Snodland w. Lower Birling: to be also Rural Dean of Cobham (Rochester).

The Rev Canon Paul Tongue, Vicar, Ambleside: to be also Rural Dean of Stourbridge (Worcester).

The Rev Geoffrey Wakeham: now Assistant Chaplain to the congregations of Torrevelja, Spain (Europe).

The Rev Stuart Wilmot, Priest-in-charge, St James w. Christ Church, Bermondsey and St Anne and St Augustine, Bermondsey: to be also Rural Dean of Bermondsey (Southwark).

The Rev Gordon Winchester, Curate, Bishop Hannington Memorial Church, Hove (Chichester): to be Vicar, All Saints w. Holy Trinity, Wandsworth (Southwark).

CONSECRATION OF THE CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE

Yesterday, the imposing Central Synagogue recently built in Great Portland Street, was consecrated by the Chief Rabbi, the Rev Dr Adler.

The Chief Rabbi, the "Dayanim", or members of the Ecclesiastical Court, the wardens, and other honorary officers of the congregation, then brought the scrolls of the law to the door of the new synagogue, and the Chief Rabbi exclaimed, "Open unto me the gates of righteousness, I will enter them, and praise the Lord." The doors being opened, the Chief Rabbi and others entered in procession with the scrolls in their arms. The ten scrolls, under richly embroidered velvet covers of crimson, purple, green and blue, were rolled round gilded silver rods, surmounted by elaborately carved finials, from which were suspended small musical silver bells.

The scrolls were then carried up the synagogue and, passing under a large canopy of crimson cloth embroidered with gold, the procession arrived at the ark, the reader and choristers singing a psalm. As they approached the ark the venerable Sir Moses Montefiore, ascending the marble steps of the ark, withdrew the curtain before the ark, opened the dark massive oak doors, and

ON THIS DAY

April 8, 1870

The first synagogue in London was opened in 1857 after Cromwell allowed the Jews (banished in 1290) to return to England. The Great Synagogue, London's Jewish Cathedral in Duke's Place, Aldgate, opened in 1722: with all its treasures it was destroyed during the Blitz.

disclosed the interior, fitted with gilded rails for the reception of the scrolls.

The procession, still bearing the scrolls, descended from the dais, and again passing beneath the canopy walked seven times round the synagogue. During the first circuit David's psalm (Psalm XXX) for the dedication of the house was chanted by the Rev S. Ascher and choristers. A separate psalm was chanted during each successive circuit.

The procession then again ascended the dais and reverently placed the sacred scrolls within the ark, the gates of which were immediately closed and the curtain redrawn by Sir Moses

Montefiore. There is no permanent pulpit, but a light oaken pulpit was drawn to the front of the marble dais in front of the ark and from this central and elevated position the Chief Rabbi preached the sermon. Dr Adler was understood to refer to the Central Synagogue as the type and embodiment of the great central organisation of their charity and religion in the metropolis. It would represent the union of the various Hebrew congregations, as the Jewish religion itself was the centre of faith of all those creeds of mankind which deserved the name of religion. The munificence of members of their faith had enriched that temple. It was meet and right so to do, but these were only external graces, and the worshippers must remember to banish idle and profane thoughts when they entered the sanctuary, and to bring none but holy and spiritual meditations into the dwelling place of Jehovah.

Glancing at the oppression exercised upon the Jews in other ages and countries, the Chief Rabbi pointed out that the condition of the Jews in any State might safely be taken as the measure of the civilisation and enlightenment of that State. He referred in terms of congratulation to the position of the Jews in this country and their full enjoyment of social and political privilege.

